United Nations A/62/PV.28

General Assembly

Sixty-second session

Official Records

28th plenary meeting
Thursday, 18 October 2007, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Kerim ..... (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Al Bayati (Iraq), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda items 64 and 47 (continued)

New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

(a) New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

Report of the Secretary-General (A/62/203)

(b) Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General (A/62/204)

2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa

Note by the Secretary-General (A/62/321)

Mr. Mbuende (Namibia): I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in this debate on the development of Africa.

Allow me to congratulate the Secretary-General on his extensive reports.

We are mid-way to 2015, the target date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Preliminary indications are that a number of African countries are not on target to meet their goals if we continue with business as usual.

The recognition by the United Nations system of the special needs of Africa, which are set out in paragraph 68 of General Assembly resolution 60/1, did not result in corresponding resource mobilization and flows to the continent. The Assembly has also on numerous occasions committed the international community to supporting the efforts of African countries to implement their development plans and strategies in order to attain sustainable development and achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

Many resources that could have been used for development are spent on conflicts and efforts to manage and resolve them. It is gratifying to note, however, that African institutions are doing their utmost to resolve conflicts on the continent. Virtually all subregional organizations that started as institutions for economic integration have added conflict resolution and good governance to their programmes.

My delegation welcomes the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union to strengthen the capacity of the continent for conflict resolution and peacekeeping. My delegation commends the efforts of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa to contribute to peace and development in Africa through its support for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants.

There cannot be development without peace. Sustainable peace is predicated not only on the existence of democratic institutions but also on a culture of democracy and tolerance.

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I would like to underscore that the primary responsibility for the development of Africa lies with the Africans themselves.

To that end, African Governments have invested substantial resources in infrastructure development, energy, transport and communication, agriculture, health, education, the environment, information and communications technology, science and technology, gender mainstreaming and civil society involvement. They have also made concerted efforts to create an enabling environment for private sector development and for domestic and foreign direct investments. In addition, they have tried to overcome the structural weaknesses of their economies through a programme of regional cooperation and integration.

The creation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is a logical culmination of that process. It represents a framework for the promotion of development in Africa.

My delegation concurs with the Secretary-General that to move NEPAD from a framework to an operational blueprint depends on the resolve of each African country. We believe, however, that the success of development in Africa also depends on the extent to which the rest of the international community is able to turn its commitments into flows of resources to our continent.

The support of the international community for the development of Africa is characterized by mixed results. On the one hand, Africa excels in terms of resolutions, initiatives and commitments. In fact, there are currently over 50 United Nations mandates on Africa. Africa does not need new initiatives, but, rather, the implementation of the programmes that have already been approved.

In contrast to the resolutions and initiatives, the resources were slow in flowing. The Secretary-General indicates in his report that official development assistance (ODA) to Africa provided by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) declined in real terms in 2005 and stalled in 2006. On the other hand, members of the Group of Eight are off track in complying with their Gleneagles commitment to double ODA to Africa by 2010. We hope that the $30 billion commitment made at the 2007 Heiligendamm Summit to support the fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis in Africa will be met in a timely manner.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) flows into Africa increased substantially in 2005. However, the continent's share of the overall global foreign direct investment was a dismal 3 per cent, and furthermore it was concentrated on only a few countries on the continent. The enactment of liberal investment laws and macroeconomic stability in most African countries did not result in FDI flows. In that regard, ODA has an important role to play in supplementing our meagre resources towards the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

My delegation is deeply concerned about the current impasse in the World Trade Organization Doha Development Round, as the Doha Round could facilitate the role of trade as an engine of economic growth and development. The impasse has negatively impacted on development and the fight against poverty. The Doha Round of negotiations needs to deliver on its development promises, including through substantial market access and market entry for agricultural and industrial products and services for developing countries, if we are to succeed in the fight against poverty.

The impasse has also affected movement in other areas of negotiations. Aid for Trade — which is aimed at empowering us to achieve sustainable growth over the long term and to consolidate our productive capacities with value-addition as the main focus and with higher technological content — has also been affected. The impasse in trade negotiations has also given rise to a multitude of bilateral, regional and subregional trade agreements, which could divert trade negotiations from the multilateral trading system and its rules and principles.

My delegation appreciates the assistance that my country continues to receive from the United Nations system and applauds the continued efforts to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations, the African Union and the regional economic communities. Only through close cooperation and coordination at all levels will the development of Africa be realized. We look forward to the effective functioning of the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council as a primary instrument for strengthened aid effectiveness.

My delegation also looks forward to the strengthening of the Office of the Special Adviser on

Africa. That Office is important to my country and to Africa as a whole, and we would like it to play a role commensurate with its responsibilities, as outlined in a number of General Assembly mandates. We cannot talk about commitment to the special needs of Africa without an effective mechanism to address those needs. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa is but the nucleus of such an effective mechanism.

Mr. Chulkov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): At the outset, let me join those who expressed condolences this morning on the passing of the Prime Minister of Myanmar.

I will shorten my statement in order to save time. The full text will be circulated.

Despite considerable progress in recent years in settling conflicts in a number of African countries, there is still concern about the grave humanitarian and socio-economic situation in the Darfur region of the Sudan, the lack of security in Somalia, new outbreaks of violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and stagnation in the efforts to resolve the border dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

The United Nations has a central coordinating role in resolving crises on the continent, in close conjunction with African regional and subregional entities. In that context we take special note of the level of practical cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations on resolving the crisis in the Sudanese province of Darfur.

We welcome the focused activities of the African Union in forming an African standby force. Russia is actively taking part in the creation of the programme for international assistance to Africa within the Group of Eight (G-8), including building up African peacekeeping capabilities. We have been implementing those decisions consistently. African peacekeeping officers are trained in our country. We plan to expand that practice. In addition, Russian specialists are training African peacekeeping personnel at international peacekeeping training centres in Accra and in Vicenza.

As a permanent member of the Security Council, Russia is contributing towards reaching agreement on a strategy for resolving conflicts in Africa through political and diplomatic means. Russian peacekeepers have been involved in practically every United Nations peacekeeping operation in Africa.

In the field of post-conflict recovery on the continent, we welcome the active role of the Peacebuilding Commission in elaborating national peacekeeping strategies in Sierra Leone and Burundi, in collaboration with the Governments of those countries. In order to strengthen the United Nations peacekeeping capacity, Russia will make annual contributions of $2 million to the Peacebuilding Fund, beginning in 2008.

Without a lasting, long-term settlement of local conflicts, it will not be possible to ensure that the African countries move towards sustainable and dynamic development or to ensure their full integration into the global economy. Russia intends to continue to provide assistance to Africa in resolving problems of peace and security on the continent, based upon respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the African States.

The Russian Federation thanks the Secretary-General for his consolidated report (A/62/203) on progress in implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). NEPAD serves as a widely recognized platform for the consideration by the international community of issues related to the provision of international assistance to Africa, including within the framework of the United Nations, the G-8 and the Africa Partnership Forum.

A major area of Russian assistance to Africa is alleviation of the debt burden of the States of the region within the framework of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative. As of today, Russia has cancelled African countries' debt totalling $11.3 billion. Russia's overall contribution to the HIPC Trust Fund was $25 million.

The Government of the Russian Federation approved the cancellation of the debt of African States that terminated their participation in the HIPC Initiative before 31 December 2006. Upon completing negotiations with Benin, Zambia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Tanzania and Ethiopia, we plan to cancel their debts to a total amount of about $547 million.

Russia is participating in the G-8 initiative to cancel the multilateral debt of the poorest countries to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the International Development Association (IDA). The Russian contribution to the initiative to cancel the IDA debt for 2007-2014 will be about $33 million.

Russia is taking part in the thirteenth replenishment of the IDA for 2003-2011 in the amount of $30 million. The Russian contribution to the fourteenth IDA replenishment will be $60 million. For 2006-2010 the voluntary contribution of Russia to the IMF Exogenous Shocks Facility for the poorest countries will be approximately $45 million. A decision has also been taken to transfer $30 million to the Global Village Energy Partnership.

The States of the African continent enjoy broad trade preferences in Russia. The traditional export commodities of the least developed countries — most of which are in Africa — are exempt from Russian customs duties. There are no quantitative import restrictions on those commodities, nor are they subject to anti-dumping, compensatory or specific protective measures. Russian companies are trading more actively in African markets. By bringing new technologies and investments to those markets, they contribute to the implementation of the plans of African States to diversify their foreign economic ties.

Training assistance to Africa is increasing. Currently, Russian higher education institutions are training more than 4,500 Africans — young men and women.

Substantial assistance is provided to African countries in the field of health care. Russia's contribution to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has reached $35 million. Russia intends to support the World Bank programme to fight malaria in sub-Saharan Africa. The Government of the Russian Federation has decided to contribute up to $20 million in 2007-2009 to that end. By 2008, Russia will have contributed $10 million to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative; $4 million has already been paid.

Russia is providing African States with targeted humanitarian assistance. This year the Russian contribution was used to provide food assistance to Kenya and the Sudan in the amount of $2 million for each country. We also provided budgetary assistance to Guinea for humanitarian needs. There is a plan to provide a one-time targeted contribution of $1 million for emergency humanitarian assistance for Somalia.

Russia is also contributing to the budget of the secretariat of the Africa Partnership Forum and the secretariat of the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa and to the Trust Fund for the African Peer Review Mechanism.

In conclusion, I re-emphasize that we believe that Africa can achieve a qualitative improvement in the lives of the people of the continent. The NEPAD programme should serve as a guideline in that respect. For its part, Russia will continue to do everything it can to provide assistance to African countries to achieve those goals.

Mr. Sangqu (South Africa): My delegation is thankful to the Secretary-General for the submission of the three reports under consideration.

My delegation is also pleased to associate itself with the statement made by Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the statement made by Benin on behalf of the African Group.

I turn first to agenda item 64 (a) and (b).

It is important to reiterate that the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is a programme of the African Union designed by Africans for Africa. Africa's renewal and recovery from a past characterized by slavery, imperialism, colonialism, apartheid and neocolonialism is geared towards the attainment of durable peace, democracy, sustainable prosperity and unity. NEPAD represents a collective affirmation by Africa of a vision, a pledge by the leaders of the continent to proactively place African countries — both individually and collectively — on a path towards peace, security, sustainable economic growth and development.

In that context, the overarching objective of Africa's process of renewal is the African renaissance, a move to break the vicious cycle of political instability, conflict, poverty and underdevelopment, and to underpin the continent's capacity to defend and advance its own interests in the global arena. The key building blocks of that renaissance strategy include increased greater unity and solidarity amongst Africans, acceleration of political and socioeconomic integration and increased international support.

NEPAD identifies various priorities for the African continent in order to deal with poverty and underdevelopment. These are discussed in the report of the Secretary-General. They include infrastructure, agriculture and food security, health, education, training and skills development, human resource development, the environment, information and

communications technology, science and technology, market access, gender mainstreaming, civil society involvement and the African Peer Review Mechanism.

The report of the Secretary-General correctly highlights the fact that 2007 represents the mid-point to 2015, the target date for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which are at the heart of the African development agenda. Sadly, experts have concluded that most African countries are, as the report of the Secretary-General puts it, "off track in meeting most, if not all, of the Millennium Development Goals" (*A/62/203, Summary*). Quite frankly, my delegation would have preferred to see the report of the Secretary-General emphasize the corrective steps required to redress that situation and accord it the urgency it rightly deserves.

Although NEPAD is first and foremost a partnership between and among African countries, it also seeks to accelerate sustainable development on the continent through partnerships with the developed North — partnerships that fundamentally alter the unequal donor-recipient relationship with Africa that has existed over the centuries. The struggle to combat underdevelopment and push back the frontiers of poverty in Africa demands not only the collective effort of Africans, but also the determined engagement of partner countries from the North.

Despite the daunting challenges facing the continent, Africa has made substantial progress in many areas. The continent is experiencing strong economic growth, and many conflicts are currently being resolved through the mediation efforts of Africans themselves. African regional organizations have become crucial players in conflict prevention and resolution.

Nonetheless, my delegation is somewhat disappointed by the understated tone of some of the conclusions and recommendations in the report of the Secretary-General on progress in implementation of and international support for the NEPAD. For example, the report draws the muted conclusion that "lack of progress in the Doha Round of multilateral trade talks remains a major problem." (*A/62/203, para. 63*). That barely acknowledges the seriousness of the fact that the Doha Development Round has lived up to neither the spirit nor the letter that its lofty objective demands. The consequences for Africa have been disastrous.

Improving policy coherence for development is of critical importance in supporting NEPAD. Providing increased aid and debt relief and other actions outlined in the report of the Secretary-General need to be part of a more coherent approach to supporting development in Africa. In many cases, there are contradictions in policies, with support provided in one area being undercut by actions in another.

Putting in place processes that enable an integrated assessment of the coherence of policies that affect development in Africa — for example, on trade, aid, foreign investment and other capital flows, migration, knowledge and technology transfer and the management of the environment — would help avoid the double standards associated with such contradictory outcomes.

The United Nations system has a very important role to play in promoting the realization of the African renaissance. My delegation is pleased to note that progress has been achieved in some key areas, notably the enhanced collaboration between the United Nations system and the Commission of the African Union, as well as the strengthening of the cluster system, under which the support of the United Nations system for the implementation of NEPAD is organized.

My delegation concurs with the recommendation in the report of the Secretary-General to the effect that the clusters and the regional consultation mechanism should be further strengthened in order to enhance coordination and joint programming. Efforts by the United Nations system to mainstream strategies in support of NEPAD in an integrated fashion and to coordinate activities at the country level with those undertaken at the subregional and regional levels are important and should be encouraged.

My delegation also supports the call in the report for increased emphasis on monitoring and evaluating the impact of United Nations activities in support of the African Union and its NEPAD programme. My delegation looks forward to receiving future progress reports of the Secretary-General on that matter.

It is for that reason that my delegation wishes to reiterate the need for the United Nations to retain the capacity, at the appropriate level, to monitor the support for NEPAD by the United Nations system and its agencies and to produce reports that the African Union could use in its implementation.

Finally, my delegation wishes to touch briefly on agenda item 47 as it pertains to the report of the World Health Organization (WHO) on rolling back malaria in developing countries, especially in Africa, which is transmitted by the Secretary-General in his note (*A/62/321*).

South Africa is a signatory to the Abuja Declaration to Roll Back Malaria in Africa, in which we committed ourselves to reducing malaria morbidity and mortality rates by 50 per cent by 2010. Although some may argue that we have already achieved that target, rolling back malaria encompasses more than a decrease in morbidity and mortality. It is also about building partnerships and sustaining the decreased malaria transmission rate.

While South Africa believes in the routine prevention, care, treatment and management of malaria, we also strongly believe in indoor residual spraying with DDT. South Africa has experienced a massive reduction in malaria cases due to indoor residual spraying of DDT, especially in the northern parts of our country, in collaboration with our neighbours Swaziland, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. South Africa's programme has been hailed as a success by the World Health Organization, and our malaria-control interventions are being used as a model for other countries to follow.

It is the conviction of my delegation that the fight against malaria can be won by all nations by destroying the mosquitoes that cause the disease — an approach that many developed countries have adopted. As the WHO report notes, the aims of the global fight against malaria are not only to reduce the burden of the disease in endemic areas but also to reduce and limit the geographical extent of areas of the world where malaria is endemic. That entails the elimination of malaria from countries and localities where that is feasible.

Mr. McNee (Canada): Canada is very pleased to join today's debate on Africa.

Africa remains a continent of great promise as well as formidable challenges across the spectrum of political and economic issues. Africa has made important progress in recent years, especially in the area of peace and security, a prerequisite to any development and economic growth. However, that progress has been fragile in many regions. We must consolidate gains made in creating a safer environment for all Africans and in seeking to ensure that Africa meets the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In August the Secretary-General released the progress report (A/62/203) on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and noted that, at the halfway point to 2015, many African countries will not meet their Millennium Development Goals. His progress report is a sobering reminder of the challenge faced by Africans, and by us all.

Canada supports African initiatives on economic development and governance reform, and welcomes Africa's success. Impressive growth rates have been attained over the past three years. The Economic Commission for Africa reports that growth rates improved in 28 African countries from 2005 to 2006. A notable, unfortunate exception to that pattern of success was Zimbabwe, the only African country to post a negative growth rate.

As with any other region, there is no single solution to achieve economic and social progress in Africa. To ensure that Africa's recent strong economic progress continues will require the comprehensive and coordinated engagement of the private sector and donors outside Africa, as well as the commitment of African nations to their own success.

Canada is pleased to be doing its part to help African partners achieve the Millennium Goals and to address peace and security challenges. At the recent Group of Eight Summit, Canada confirmed its commitment to double its annual international assistance to Africa, from $1.05 billion in 2003-2004 to $2.1 billion in 2008-2009. Canada is on track to meet that commitment. As of 2005-2006, Canadian aid to Africa reached $1.7 billion.

As an element of our support for Africa, Canada has maintained a strong commitment to regional and multilateral initiatives to advance global malaria prevention and control efforts, targeting primarily children and pregnant women. To date, Canada has provided almost $530 million to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, almost a quarter of which is directed at malaria. Most recently, in April this year, Canada announced $20 million in new funding over three years through the Canadian Red Cross, primarily for the distribution of bed nets to African households.

Canada is proud to be working with African partners in support of NEPAD and the African Peer Review Mechanism. Canada shares our African partners' priorities — including peace and security, the promotion of democracy, sustainable development and good governance. The progress of the Mechanism is a key African-led initiative to achieve those goals.

Positive momentum by the Peer Review Mechanism is evident and encouraging. Since last year two more countries — Djibouti and Sao Tome and Principe — have signed on, and Algeria, Kenya, Rwanda and South Africa have submitted their country reports. Canada applauds their commitment.

In a debate in the Security Council in August, Canada urged the Council to address conflicts at an early stage. Canada is increasingly concerned about recent developments in the Sudan, Zimbabwe and the Great Lakes Region, which underscore the fragility of gains made in peace and security. In addition to the serious effects on the people in individual countries, those situations endanger regional stability.

Canada remains deeply concerned about the human rights and humanitarian situation in the Sudan. Our commitment to humanitarian, peacebuilding and peace support operations assistance aimed at bringing an end to the conflict has totalled more than $440 million since 2004. Of that, $208 million is in direct support to the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS), which makes Canada the fourth largest donor to AMIS.

We believe that a resolution of the Darfur conflict, in conjunction with progress on the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in the south, is critical to building long-term stability in the whole of the Sudan. We call on all parties to the Darfur conflict to participate in the renewed peace talks.

Canada also remains deeply concerned by the deteriorating political, economic and humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe. In the spirit of NEPAD and commitment to the development of African-led approaches, Canada strongly supports the Southern African Development Community mediation initiative, led by President Mbeki of South Africa. We recognize the progress made to date, and look forward to Zimbabwe's securing the necessary conditions for holding free and fair elections next year.

(*spoke in French*)

Last December we all welcomed the boldness of the leaders of the Great Lakes region who signed the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region. The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Burundi have since ratified the Pact, and just today Kenya has done the same. In doing so they have expressed their commitment to achieving an area of peace in the region and ending the displacement of populations, thereby leading the way for others to sign on to the Pact.

We must, however, emphasize that recent developments in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo have raised serious concerns. We urge the Governments of the region to do everything possible to preserve regional peace and stability, which are so longed for by the peoples of the Great Lakes Region.

We Canadians join our African partners in celebrating the successes that Africa has achieved. Canada recognizes that the African continent holds great promise. But we also recognize that it continues to face significant challenges, particularly in bringing peace and security to troubled regions. Those challenges will have to be dealt with if Africa is to achieve its full potential. Nevertheless, progress is being made towards achieving its remarkable potential — progress led by Africans, for Africans.

Canada is contributing to those African successes, and it will continue to do so.

Mr. Momem (Bangladesh): Bangladesh applauds the Secretary-General for his comprehensive reports.

We align ourselves with the statement by the representative of Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

The challenges that Africa faces today in the areas of poverty, hunger, malnutrition, deadly diseases and the environment are daunting. The international community has long been aware of Africa's problems and needs. By adopting the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), African countries have put the internationally agreed development goals at the centre of their development agenda.

The African Peer Review Mechanism is a concrete sign of the commitment of African countries to good governance. By adopting two currency unions

and nominal exchange-rate stabilization in the southern African Common Monetary Area, Africa has taken the lead in the developing world in regional monetary integration. There has also been progress in the area of conflict resolution. The report of the Secretary-General states that "Africa today is afflicted by far fewer armed conflicts than it was a decade ago" (*A/62/204, para. 5*).

What is needed now, in our view, is to consolidate international support to help African countries to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and implement NEPAD. As Africa marches ahead to address its own challenges, we have a moral responsibility to extend a hand of cooperation. International cooperation in the form of aid, trade, debt relief, investment, technology transfer and capacity building is crucial for Africa.

Trade is critically important for the region. The international community should correct trade distortions and expand African countries' trade opportunities. The current trading system is no doubt biased against developing countries. Apart from other reasons, that is due to a wide array of harmful subsidies, fluctuation in the terms of trade, non-tariff restrictions and artificial standards imposed by industrialized countries. Those must be reversed.

Commodity- and preference-dependent economies will suffer enormously from the erosion of preferences and export revenue losses as a result of most-favoured-nation tariff reduction. A recent estimate by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development indicates a net welfare loss for sub-Saharan Africa, due mainly to adverse terms of trade effects and the absence of efficiency gains.

It is critically important to address specific development needs of those countries, including through supply-capacity building. A recent estimate indicates that the removal of tariffs and subsidies on cotton has the potential to lift the incomes of sub-Saharan African cotton producers by 31 per cent. We call upon major economies to conclude the Doha negotiations immediately, with full implementation of the development agenda, bearing in mind the special concerns of African countries and the least developed countries.

The external debt situation of the developing countries, particularly those of sub-Saharan Africa and least developed countries, remains a source of serious concern. For many of them, the accumulated debt burden has become a drawback to financing their development.

We note with satisfaction that there has been some progress in the countries of sub-Saharan Africa, as their ratio of debt to gross domestic product dropped from 37 per cent to 24 per cent last year. However, the current debt relief initiative has been slow. The resources released for development through debt relief were in practice much smaller than those indicated by aid statistics. Debt relief has also not been additional to official development assistance (ODA), as it was expected to be.

We are deeply concerned to note that, exclusive of debt forgiveness, in 2006 official development assistance from countries members of the Development Assistance Committee declined to the lowest level since 1999. That falls far short of the Group of Eight Gleneagles pledge in 2005 to double aid to Africa by 2010. The recent reiteration of pledges indicates a downward revision of targets rather than a scaling-up, as was predicted and required. The ODA commitment by the donor countries should be fulfilled immediately.

Development partners and the international community should also take steps to help Africa integrate into the global economy through foreign direct investment (FDI). The recently released World Investment Report 2007 of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) registers that FDI into Africa doubled between 2004 and 2006 to a record $36 billion. In 2006 many African countries incorporated into their policy the specific measures and regulatory frameworks to ensure steady inflows of FDI. The report recognizes that the investment is spurred by a generally improved business climate in this region. Despite these increases, the region's share of global FDI declined to 2.7 per cent in 2006 from 3.1 per cent in 2005. This matter should also be addressed as a priority.

Bangladesh has been actively engaged in the areas of peace and development for Africa. There has been hardly any United Nations peacekeeping mission in Africa in the last two and half decades in which Bangladesh did not participate. Currently around 10,000 Bangladeshis are working in 12 United Nations peacekeeping missions. We send our peacekeepers even to the most risk-prone areas. We do this in keeping with our Charter commitment and in the spirit of solidarity with our African brethren. Our Blue-

Helmet soldiers have been working shoulder to shoulder with our brothers in Africa in restoring peace in this region.

As a member of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission, Bangladesh is actively engaged in supporting the ongoing development efforts in Burundi and Sierra Leone. I reiterate the Bangladesh Government's firm commitment to further strengthening our support and cooperation for the development of Africa.

In development, as in peace, Bangladesh walks with fellow African nations — as a member of the Group of 77, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Least Developed Countries group. The Brussels Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) outline a set of actions by the global community to address the socioeconomic challenges facing the 50 most impoverished countries, 34 of which are in Africa.

Fulfilment of the commitments of the Programme of Action will go a long way in addressing Africa's problems. As the current Chair of the LDCs group, we believe Africa should remain at the top of our priority agenda. Within the framework of South-South cooperation, countries like Bangladesh can and must strive to meaningfully contribute to Africa's sustained development.

Over the years Bangladesh has successfully adopted a number of innovative development ideas like microcredit, non-formal education and women's empowerment. Microcredit is the simplest of concepts that makes the profoundest of changes in the societal landscape. This idea has now been replicated in around a hundred countries, including many in Africa.

The world's largest non-governmental organization, the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), has started its programmes at grassroots level in post-conflict areas of Afghanistan and Sri Lanka. Involving non-governmental organizations and civil society actors, we have been able to strengthen our institutions and deliver broad-based social sector programmes. We remain ready to share our experiences in these countries with all other areas on the African continent.

NEPAD is based on a new vision for Africa. Addressing extreme poverty is obviously a strategic choice, well embedded in NEPAD. It is also based on the realization that progress in developing Africa cannot be achieved without the social and economic emancipation of the majority of its long neglected nations. Let us resolve to address precisely this challenge.

Mr. Mekki Ahmed (Sudan): My delegation aligns itself with the statements by the representative of Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and by the representative of Benin on behalf of the African Group.

We thank the Secretary-General for his three thorough reports (A/62/203, A/62/204 and A/62/321) on the items we are discussing today: the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, and the Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa.

My delegation wants to emphasize agenda item 64, which concerns NEPAD. We strongly welcome the progress made by African countries, with the support of international partners, as well as domestic stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector. While we welcome progress made so far in implementing the two tracks of the NEPAD infrastructure programme, the medium- and long-term strategic framework, we agree that there is an urgent need to scale up investment in infrastructure and capacity building.

My delegation commends the Secretary-General for placing special emphasis on the issue of health in his fifth consolidated report, and further welcomes the Africa Health Strategy: 2007-2015 presented to the African Union Conference of Health Ministers in April. We also emphasize the need to support other international initiatives in the area of global health, such as the Oslo Declaration following the September 2006 initiative on Global Health and Foreign Policy.

My delegation also welcomes the progress achieved in implementing the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). Since Sudan's voluntary accession, in January 2006, we have supported efforts aimed at encouraging remaining African countries to join the Mechanism.

Sudan, immediately after joining the APRM, established the necessary organs to accelerate implementation of the Mechanism, with the

participation of all domestic stakeholders, including civil society organizations and the private sector. Our programme places special emphasis on women's empowerment, promotion of democracy, accountability and the rule of law. During the last few months these organs have held many organizational meetings aimed at mapping the way towards implementation.

For African countries to benefit from NEPAD, a comprehensive plan of action is required to integrate African economies into the world economy as well as into the international trading system. Market access for African commodities is of overriding importance for Africa. Accession of African countries to the World Trade Organization is vital for the process of integration into the world economy.

The international community should fulfil its commitments to support NEPAD and national efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development. In addition, we call upon the international community to support the efforts of African countries to combat climate change and adapt to its adverse impacts.

While welcoming the efforts of the development partners, including the Group of Eight, towards relieving the debt of the African countries, we believe that more remains to be done. We draw attention to the constraints on my country's benefiting from the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative, and we look forward to international and regional support to overcome them.

Our experience in Sudan illustrates the necessity of addressing the critical economic and developmental dimension of conflicts, and thus the vital role of improving the socioeconomic conditions of people in achieving sustainable peace. Therefore, wealth sharing arrangements were essential components of the three signed peace agreements in the Sudan: the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, The Darfur Peace Agreement and the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement. Moreover, climate change and environmental degradation constitute a basic root cause of conflict.

Unilateral sanctions imposed on my country since the 1990s continue to seriously hamper the Government of National Unity's efforts to address the root causes of conflict, provide the peace dividend for the people, eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development and internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Those are stumbling blocks on the country's road to attract much needed foreign direct investment and official development assistance.

We agree with the Secretary-General in asserting the linkage between peace and development, and we call on the international regional actors to support the Government's efforts to make the smooth transition from relief to development. The central role of regional organizations in the sustainability of peace is vital, particularly to post-conflict countries in Africa. That calls for the urgent implementation of the 10-year capacity-building plan to enhance Africa's peacekeeping capacities, as contained in the relevant paragraphs of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document.

Finally, my delegation would like to touch upon agenda item 47, "2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa". Malaria is a major public health threat, with wide-ranging ramifications in developing countries, particularly in Africa. In Sudan, it is one of the most serious threats and impediments to social and economic development, and obstructs efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

We agree with the Secretary-General, who maintains that despite global efforts, malaria remains a global threat. Sad to say, almost the entire population of Sudan is at risk of malaria, with varying degrees of intensity. It is estimated that in Sudan malaria affects around 7.5 million people, and is responsible for the death of around 35,000 persons annually. In public sector health facilities, malaria accounts for around one-fifth of outpatient attendances, and in pediatric hospitals the fatality rate ranges from 5 per cent to 15 per cent. The disease leads to around 38 per cent of maternal mortality and nearly 20 per cent of low weight births.

Scientific evidence points to the effect of climate change on the incidence of malaria, as higher temperatures are seen to accelerate the development of parasites and cause mosquitoes to mature faster and live longer, thus increasing the frequency of potential transmission.

To confront these challenges, my Government has designed a national strategy, and set up a special national unit to combat malaria through improved disease management, disease surveillance and epidemic management, prevention, and capacity-

building in the health sector. The strategy aims at reducing malaria morbidity and mortality by 40 per cent by 2007. This national strategy focuses mainly on prevention as a means to combat the disease. There is a strong partnership to execute this strategy between the Government and the World Health Organization, UNICEF, non-governmental organizations, local communities and the private sector.

Unfortunately, these efforts are impeded by the lack of adequate and predictable funding and by poor capacity. My delegation believes in the need to strengthen efforts to make the fight against malaria a basic element of global diplomatic efforts.

Mr. Butagira (Uganda): Uganda is delighted to take part in this debate. My contribution today will be on the agenda item concerning malaria. Malaria has killed many people in sub-Saharan Africa.

I want to discuss something I have seen for myself. I have seen people walking into drugstores and asking for tablets to treat malaria. The drugstore owner is not even a trained pharmacist. The so-called anti-malarial drugs are sold like any other item in the shop. Very often, the customer-patient does not have enough money to pay for the drugs, and tells the storekeeper this. The storekeeper then gives him tablets equivalent to whatever money he has. He then walks out of the store and takes the drugs. Because the tablets are less than the normal dosage for treatment, the patient will not be cured.

In another scenario, a patient walks into a clinic, where he tells the doctor that he has been taking drugs for malaria, but the malaria has not gone. Because he has been told that malaria can be cured only by quinine administered through a drip method, he asks the doctor to give him the quinine. The doctor graciously grants his request and administers the drug in that manner. He has not examined the patient, but simply does what the patient wants. This approach is obviously unprofessional, but unfortunately there are a good number of doctors who act in that way. The result is that the patient develops resistance to any other, less strong drug.

What conclusions can we draw from these scenarios? First, the drugs are sold like any other commodity; there are no measures to ensure their quality. More often than not, expired drugs are sold. Secondly, the patient takes a smaller dosage than is required, because that is what he can afford, and is not cured. Thirdly, instead of using his own professional judgement, the doctor follows what the patient wants. For him, money is the primary concern. Not all doctors behave in this manner, but a good number do.

Therefore, there is a need to put in place a regulatory mechanism to ensure that any errant doctor will be punished. There is also a need for the authorities, in partnership with the private sector, to make sure that medicines are affordable, and to put in place laws and regulations penalizing shopkeepers for selling medicines. Only authorized pharmacists would be allowed to sell them, and only by prescription.

In the fight against malaria, most attention should be directed at prevention. In this connection, mosquito breeding grounds, such as stagnant water, should be tackled. In Uganda we have put in place an elaborate vector control system aimed at putting emphasis on prevention rather than cure. Recently we have introduced controlled indoor spraying of DDT after fighting a battle with the so-called environmentalists. DDT has been a success story in most countries, and we believe it is a strong weapon to fight malaria.

We have also provided a good number of people with treated mosquito nets, but we need assistance from the international community and relevant private sector institutions to supplement Government efforts in this regard. This is an area where public-private partnerships can be forged.

But the whole question of provision of mosquito nets goes hand in hand with poverty eradication measures. For instance, someone with no shelter in the form of a house or hut has nowhere to hang a net. So a house or a hut and a bed are prerequisites to the provision of mosquito nets. A poor person will be tempted to use a net to sleep on, instead of for its purpose, because he cannot afford bedding. That is no exaggeration.

I should also mention the lack of transport. Many people who could have been saved have died because they could not be transported expeditiously to a hospital when they fell sick from malaria — either because there were no roads or, even if there was a road, because there was no ambulance. Therefore, the question of infrastructure as well as means of transport must be addressed.

I have witnessed another scenario, concerning laboratory services. Some are ill-equipped to test for malarial parasites. I know of a laboratory/clinic where

everyone tested for malarial parasites has a positive result, when that may not be justified. Patients are therefore treated for malaria that is not there, with disastrous consequences. The question of efficient laboratory services must therefore also be addressed.

There is also a need to train health workers who can sensitize rural communities about hygiene and ensure the proper administration of drugs.

Lastly, I would like to thank those organizations and Governments that have put in place measures to scale up anti-malarial interventions in populations at risk. In that regard, our thanks go to the United States for its President's Malaria Initiative, to the Global Fund and to the World Bank for its Booster Programme for Malaria Control in Africa.

Mr. Kapambwe (Zambia): At the outset, I commend the President for the able manner in which he is presiding over the business of the General Assembly at this session.

My delegation fully associates itself with the statements made this morning by the representative of Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and by the representative of Benin on behalf of the Group of African States. I shall therefore not seek to address the diverse issues on which they have already spoken.

We thank the Secretary-General for his reports (A/62/203 and A/62/204) on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and his note (A/62/321) transmitting the detailed report on the Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa.

As we all know, the New Partnership for Africa's Development is a home-grown programme of the African Union that aims to achieve socioeconomic development on the continent. Six years ago the African leaders decided to renew and transform their development agenda through NEPAD, in the realization that Africa was the only continent lagging behind in development and experiencing increasing poverty levels.

Today we are happy to note that NEPAD has been recognized by the United Nations and other cooperating partners as a useful tool to develop infrastructure, agriculture, trade and investment, as well as to promote private sector and human resources development. For our part, as Africans, we have developed democratic and accountable governance institutions that are being nurtured through the African Peer Review Mechanism. To date, 26 countries — including my own — have acceded to the Mechanism. We are hopeful that the international community will step up its efforts and increase its resources to help Africa to develop and achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

As indicated by the representatives of Pakistan and Benin, we are greatly concerned about the overall decline in flows of official development assistance (ODA). It is indeed regrettable that most development partners have not met their obligation to contribute 0.7 per cent of their gross national income to ODA. Furthermore, the promise made by the Group of Eight at Gleneagles to scale up ODA for Africa has not materialized.

At this point, I want to focus my attention on malaria, which continues to be the number-one killer in several regions of the world — particularly in many parts of Africa, including Zambia.

Since the inception of the Roll Back Malaria strategy the world has seen — besides the establishment of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria —increased political will and financial commitment to control malaria. But the disease has continued to threaten 40 per cent of the world's population, in 107 countries. Around 500 million people suffer from acute malaria each year, resulting in about 1 million mortalities annually, with the most vulnerable being women and children. Zambia, like the rest of the international community, recognizes that.

Many developing countries, including Zambia, that are adversely affected by the disease support all the efforts made by the international community to combat malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases.

Malaria also has adverse effects on long-term socioeconomic sustainable development, in that it affects the performance of those infected, who, in turn, cannot provide for their households. Based on reported cases of malaria in Zambia, it is estimated that there are at least 4.3 million clinical cases per year, with children and pregnant women being the most affected. In response, since 2000 the Zambian Government has identified malaria control as an urgent health priority

and consequently has been implementing the Roll Back Malaria strategy at country level since 2001.

Furthermore, we are committed to the Abuja Declaration, which seeks to reduce malaria in Africa by 50 per cent by 2010. The Declaration set a target of 60 per cent coverage for access to insecticide-treated bed nets and the taking of preventive medicines, namely, intermittent presumptive treatment.

Other milestones achieved by my country — as stated in the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (A/62/1) — include the free distribution of bed nets and the implementation of immunization campaigns, which have led to a 10 per cent reduction in the incidence of malaria over a period of about five years. In addition, we are carrying out indoor residential house spraying, as well as providing effective life-saving drugs for those infected.

Those positive intervention programmes have been effectively implemented, resulting in the saving of many lives, with support from all our partners at the global, regional, subregional, country and community levels. It is also encouraging to note that our partners have continued to buy into our national malaria strategic plan in order to accelerate the achievement of the Abuja targets and, indeed, the Millennium Development Goals. That only affirms donor confidence in the implementation of our national malaria programme.

Notwithstanding those achievements, Zambia continues to face a number of challenges. They include inadequate knowledge about the interaction of the package of interventions and outcomes; a weak and constrained health system that may not cope with the added pressures of a national programme expansion, coupled with the brain drain and high staff turnover; an inadequate communication infrastructure, which inhibits the distribution of insecticide-treated nets; and the fact that, owing to financial constraints, the Government has not been able to offer competitive conditions of service to retain and motivate highly trained staff.

For Zambia to effectively address those challenges and scale up the malaria programme, the following assistance is required, among many other measures: technical support to improve management programme systems at all levels; funds for improved diagnosis of malaria cases; insecticide-treated nets and mass distribution; and technical and financial support to carry out operational research and sustain efforts to find environmentally friendly alternatives to chemical-based interventions.

In conclusion, my delegation thanks the international community for its continued support at both the national and regional levels in combating this epidemic. The Global Fund initiative has provided renewed impetus to the programmes and interventions of Member States designed to combat HIV, tuberculosis and malaria.

We also reaffirm our support for the work of the international community aimed at the full realization of the goals set out in the Abuja Declaration on Roll Back Malaria, and, indeed, in the Millennium Development Goals, to achieve a malaria-free country. We appeal to the international community to commit additional resources in order to be able to respond to the additional challenges, and we ask that such resources be made available on time.

Mr. Badji (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): The delegation of Senegal thanks the Secretary-General for submitting to the General Assembly his fifth consolidated report on implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (A/62/203), as well as the reports on the causes of conflict (A/62/204) and implementation of the Decade to Roll Back Malaria (A/62/321, annex).

I take this opportunity to welcome in particular the commitment to African development that our Secretary-General demonstrated by recently establishing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Africa Steering Group to accelerate the achievement of those Goals in Africa. That is a far-sighted action that will, we hope, make it possible to step up the development process on the continent. He deserves our thanks and congratulations.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements made by the representative of Benin, on behalf of the Group of African States, and by the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Five years have already passed since the Assembly's adoption on 4 November 2002 of resolution 57/7, by which the international community endorsed the then-Secretary-General's recommendation, set out in paragraph 4, that NEPAD "should be the framework within which the international community, including the United Nations system, should

concentrate its efforts for Africa's development". The resolution also urged "the international community and the United Nations system to organize support for African countries in accordance with the principles, objectives and priorities of the New Partnership".

NEPAD, we must remember, is a partnership with two dimensions: internal and international. It is intended to be a link between Africans themselves, on the one hand, and, on the other, between Africa and the rest of the world, which has expressed its total support by welcoming NEPAD's relevance and ambitious goals. Proof is to be seen in the many initiatives and promises of aid to Africa since its adoption.

In some five years' existence NEPAD has had mixed fortunes. Certainly, there has been progress resulting from African efforts that have made possible, inter alia, the creation of a more stable environment on the continent; strengthened governance and transparency; increased democratization of society; and the promotion of gender equality and equity, respect for human rights and greater adherence to the African Peer Review Mechanism.

But it must be said that the enthusiasm of NEPAD's early days contrasts with the current reality, halfway to the crucial 2015 deadline set for the achievement of the MDGs. Indeed, whereas development requires colossal economic efforts, particularly in the African context, inaction seems to have been more prevalent during NEPAD's first five years, to the detriment of effective implementation. We have noted a succession of study meetings, workshops and other round tables, rather than real action. The Secretary-General's various reports are enlightening on that point. The reasons are to be found at three levels.

First, African States and bodies have not always been able to get past the stage of bureaucratic consideration in order to tackle the concrete implementation phase. But there have also been shortcomings with regard to raising people's awareness and promoting NEPAD initiatives. We therefore fully support the Secretary-General's invitation to African countries "to take steps to effectively implement the many NEPAD projects and programmes they have already adopted." (*A/62/203, para.63*)

In that connection, I am pleased to announce the decision taken in September by the NEPAD Steering Committee of Heads of State and Government, on the margins of the Assembly's general debate, to meet on 22 November this year in Dakar, Senegal, at a mini-summit to discuss NEPAD's future in order to give it new vigour. That meeting will enable us to give new direction to NEPAD's implementation at a time when the process of integrating its secretariat into the African Union is making significant progress.

There have also been shortcomings with regard to the mobilization of international support, which remains indispensable, even if the main responsibility for development of the continent lies primarily with the Africans themselves. While there have been positive developments in this area, the lack of sufficient resources continues to be a major constraint for Africa.

In that regard, we express our concern about the progressive decline since 2004 in the volume of aid provided by the industrialized countries. Paradoxically, this decline, which has occurred despite the commitment of the Group of Eight and the European Union to double official development assistance (ODA), and the arrival of new sources of development financing, is taking place at a time when those very countries have proceeded to cancel the multilateral debt owed by the highly indebted countries. One can imagine that the drop in this aid from the countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is a way of compensating for the cancellation of the multilateral debt undertaken in 2005, at the risk of cancelling out the expected effects.

In addition, the lack of concrete results in the multilateral trade negotiations at Doha, which were expected to spur the exports of countries of the South, and of Africa in particular, place almost insurmountable obstacles in the path of our economies. Without a halt to the grave distortion of free trade caused by the agricultural subsidies of the developed countries, which are destroying our farming communities, we will never be able to roll back poverty.

To this must be added the weakness of foreign direct investment, despite the business opportunities offered by NEPAD projects and the gradual improvement of the business climate in the continent.

Another source of concern for us is the situation imposed on a number of African countries by the sharp and unjustifiable increase in the price of oil, which yesterday reached more than $88 per barrel, compared with $26 only four years ago. That is nearly a 240 per cent increase. The Assembly can imagine the disasters

that such a situation can bring about for the control of inflation, for products involving big energy consumption, for balanced budgets and for the financing of development projects. Moreover, the situation seems to obey no other logic than the unchecked quest for profits by the oil monopolies, to the detriment of the lives of millions of people in poor countries that do not produce this source of energy, which is indispensable for development.

Even if development aid, the cancellation of the debt and free trade continue to be important for the States of the South, particularly in Africa, their effectiveness will only be limited in the present context without concrete measures to remedy the effects of the growth in oil prices. That is the reason for the proposal made by the head of State of Senegal recently at the 5th meeting, in the Assembly's general debate, when he called for the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to add 2 per cent to each oil price increase: 1 per cent to fight poverty, and the other 1 per cent to combat the degradation of the environment.

The final shortcoming is the lack of integration of NEPAD priorities into the interventions of bodies of the United Nations system. It is therefore urgent for those bodies, pursuant to resolution 57/7, to effectively align their actions with the development model established by NEPAD.

To conclude on the NEPAD item, my delegation welcomes the decision by the General Assembly last year to organize, during its sixty-third session, a high-level meeting on the status of the implementation of numerous commitments by the international community to respond to Africa's development needs.

Since the 2000 Millennium Summit, the last five years have been dominated internationally by the holding of four great conferences, crucial events in the march of humankind in solidarity towards a better world: the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg; the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey; the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Geneva and Tunis, respectively; and the 2005 World Summit, held here in New York.

Those world meetings marked a turning point in the international community's taking into account the specific needs of Africa to help it enter the third millennium.

The situation I have described is evidence of the great importance attached to this high-level meeting in terms of the international community's understanding and appreciation of Africa's needs.

Creating conditions for sustainable development in Africa also means rising to the challenge of stability and lasting peace. Senegal welcomes the remarkable efforts by the African countries to overcome the demons of division, incomprehension and intolerance. We call on them all to continue these beneficial efforts for national reconciliation, the only guarantee of lasting peace, to which the African people aspire.

In the subregion, and particularly in Senegal, the positive developments in Côte d'Ivoire are an immense source of hope of finally seeing that brother nation emerge from the maze of a crisis that has lasted much too long and rediscover its role and place within the subregional and continental family.

Another reason for satisfaction is the successful holding of elections in Sierra Leone, whose people, following in the footsteps of Liberia, have given proof of great maturity by setting themselves firmly on the path of reconciliation and democracy after more than a decade of war in that carnage-torn country.

With respect to the Sudan, Senegal continues to express its readiness to work for the installation of a frank and open dialogue between the different protagonists, and is particularly pleased with the important progress noted recently as a result of an intelligent partnership between the African Union and the United Nations. This form of partnership must be enhanced and extended to other countries, such as Somalia, where the situation requires greater attention by the Africans and the international community, to keep that brother nation from falling into the abyss of anarchy and chaos.

It is also essential that everything be done to stop the devastating pandemic of malaria, which every year, through its significant number of victims in Africa — more than a million per year — causes immense losses to the African gross domestic product, estimated at more than $12 billion. We should therefore continue to support African efforts, through increased mobilization of resources within the framework of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, as well as through strengthened implementation of quick-impact initiatives agreed at the 2005 World Summit.

To conclude, I reaffirm how unique and effective is the framework offered by NEPAD for the effective deployment of a world partnership for development in Africa. Senegal hopes that the international community and the United Nations system will be able to give more support for the plan, made by the African leaders through NEPAD, to enable the African countries to take their rightful place among the prosperous nations.

Mr. Muburi-Muita (Kenya): Let me thank the President for organizing this plenary discussion with a special focus on Africa.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by the representative of Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and by the representative of Benin on behalf of the Group of African States.

I take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General for the informative reports on the issues under consideration.

By highlighting the complex range of challenges confronting Africa's development, the United Nations can, we believe, help refocus attention on viable solutions and mobilize a coalition of the international community to comprehensively address those significant problems.

With regard to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), Kenya actively participates and supports the implementation of the various NEPAD projects and programmes. We note with appreciation that some NEPAD initiatives are being implemented, and call for concerted, enhanced efforts to bring them speedily to fruition.

African countries have made tremendous progress with regard to the African Peer Review Mechanism. Kenya completed its African Peer Review Mechanism process last year and presented its report at the Summit of the African Union held at Banjul. We seek to maintain dialogue with the secretariat, as well as with other peers, to effect meaningful and lasting change in the lives of the Kenyan people and the rest of the African peoples.

Our country report highlighted challenges and gaps faced by Kenya in the implementation of peer review. We are committed to implementing the recommendations therein to the fullest extent, and we call for the support of the international community in that endeavour.

According to the Secretary-General's report on NEPAD (A/62/203), there has been some improvement in the past five years with regard to the situation of official development assistance (ODA), debt relief and foreign direct investment. That is an indication that some resources are likely to be available for more pressing development needs in the social and economic fields.

Indeed, a good number of countries in Africa have registered positive economic growth figures in the past few years. However, the positive trend does not match the resource requirements for general development purposes and specific NEPAD projects and programmes. One of the main problems is that support has been provided in a selective manner, thus leaving the majority of countries even more vulnerable and not able to undertake their individual and collective responsibilities.

For instance, debt relief initiatives have targeted certain specific countries while other heavily indebted countries have been left out. As a result of efforts to improve the economies of developing countries, in the course of the past four years a number of countries have crossed over the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt (HIPC) threshold and are now classified as being at the lower threshold of developing countries. The transitional conditions prevailing in those countries, especially in the area of debt relief, require some attention. We therefore call for a programme of support for them, as a guarantee against the risk of rolling back the gains that have been made.

Trade is an important component of development. Unfortunately, international trade rules are currently unsupportive of the interests of developing countries. The suspension of the Doha Round in July 2006 was an unwelcome development that dampens the prospects of the multilateral trading system.

An unfair trading system that imposes punitive tariffs on sectors where countries selectively enjoy a competitive edge — such as agricultural produce and manufactured goods like textiles and garments — discourages export diversification and manufacturing capacity building. It is therefore not surprising that, according to the World Bank, Africa's share of world trade declined from 3.5 per cent in 1970 to about 1.4 per cent in 2005. It is worth noting that, when the non-oil trade effect is considered on its own, Africa's share of world trade is shamefully low.

NEPAD represents the resolve of African leaders to spearhead the development of the continent. That task cannot be accomplished by Africans by themselves. We therefore emphasize the need for concerted efforts by the international community to support African leaders in attaining the goals set under NEPAD.

With regard to the 2001-2010 Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa, I wish to underline the fact that malaria continues to threaten the lives of nearly half of all humanity worldwide. The disease is most prevalent in Africa, and continues to hinder social and economic development in numerous ways.

However, there has been a resurgence of international attention to and support for malaria control, thus giving hope to the affected populations. Progress has been made in research on prevention and treatment methods, resulting in long-lasting insecticide-treated nets, rapid diagnostic tests and other highly effective approaches. There has also been an increase in funding for malaria control, both at bilateral and multilateral levels, particularly through the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. We encourage development partners to continue with that trend.

More important, we should work more closely together in the African region to share best practices, especially on malaria warning mechanisms. In Kenya, national malaria-related targets are being reached at a faster rate, following the Government's deliberate policy and focus.

With the support of our partners, we recently launched the new artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT). ACT treatment is now available free of charge in all Government and faith-based organizations' hospitals. The improved distribution of treated mosquito nets and the implementation of other preventive measures are bearing fruit. The focus and impact would be even greater if a decision were made to establish entities in Africa to manufacture mosquito nets and malaria medication. We believe that such a move would improve accessibility, lower cost and build local capacity for self-reliance and self-sufficiency.

I turn to the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. It is no secret that the continent has faced devastating conflicts over the past 20 years. The end to the conflicts in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and southern Sudan was a substantive step towards overall peace in Africa. According to the reports of the Secretary-General and the Human Security Report, the number of conflicts in the world has fallen by over 40 per cent during the past dozen years. The fact that conflict is becoming less common in general, and particularly in Africa, is very encouraging indeed.

Owing to the negative correlation between conflicts and development, investment, peace and security, and the general welfare of the people, my delegation calls for concerted efforts at conflict resolution and the reconstruction of affected countries. That is one sure way of giving hope to the people of affected countries.

In addition, Kenya urges increased involvement by the African Union and the United Nations system in conflict monitoring, resolution and reconstruction, in particular through the promotion of political and technical cooperation between continent and subregional organizations. In that respect, it is important to strengthen African peacekeeping capabilities and capacity.

Kenya hosted last December the Second Summit of Heads of State and Government of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, dealing with peace, security, democracy and development in the region. The objective of the Conference was to establish a framework to promote peace, security and development in the Great Lakes Region and end the recurrence of violence and conflict in the whole region. A pact was signed by member States, and it is now being implemented. We thank our partners, especially the Group of Friends of the Great Lakes Region, for their valuable support in preparing for the Conference and addressing the conflicts in the region, including their commitment to continued and sustained support.

We trust that this and other focused discussions on the development needs of Africa — in particular, the high-level meeting on the theme of Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward, scheduled to take place during the sixty-third session of the General Assembly — will re-energize the international community's attention and its efforts to

support the African continent in addressing its development, social and security problems.

Lastly, with a view to mainstreaming and sustaining focus on Africa's development needs within the United Nations system, my delegation reiterates the request for the Secretary-General to appoint an office-bearer to the position of Special Adviser on Africa and to strengthen that Office adequately.

Mr. Matenje (Malawi): First, my delegation aligns itself with the statements made by the representatives of Pakistan and Benin on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and the Group of African States, respectively.

We also thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive and informative reports and his constructive support for the development of Africa.

As we all know, the primary goal of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is to eradicate poverty through an integrated and strategic development framework aimed at placing African countries, both individually and collectively, on a path to sustainable growth and development, thus halting the marginalization of African countries in the globalization process. While African countries have the primary responsibility for their own economic and social development, they need to be supported by an enabling and equitable international economic environment to achieve economic prosperity within the context of internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We wish to make a few comments on the efforts Malawi is making to achieve the MDGs.

Malawi's estimated population is about 12 million people, with an average of 5.7 persons per household. It is estimated that there are 1.9 million households in the country. About 75 per cent of the population lives in rural areas. Infant and child mortality rates are estimated at 104 and 189 per 1,000 live births, respectively. Malaria is one of the leading causes of mortality and morbidity, especially among expectant women and children under five years of age.

To mitigate that problem, the Government has developed a malaria strategic plan for the period 2005 to 2010, in line with the objectives of the Roll Back Malaria programme. That has brought together major partners involved in the delivery of health services, including the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the World Bank, the United Kingdom's Department for International Development, the United States Agency for International Development, Japan's International Cooperation Agency, research institutions and non-governmental organizations.

Under Malawi's strategic plan, our country has recorded a number of achievements in the management of malaria cases. So far we have distributed about 5 million insecticide-treated mosquito nets to households. As a result, the proportion of expectant women and children under five years sleeping under treated nets increased from 8 per cent in 2000 to 20 per cent in 2006. By the end of this year, Malawi plans to distribute 3 million more nets, with support from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and President Bush's Malaria Initiative. However, a shortage of staff remains the biggest challenge faced by the health delivery system in Malawi.

In the agriculture sector, Malawi has made significant achievements in food security. We are determined to decrease by half the proportion of the population that suffer from extreme poverty and hunger and to improve their nutritional status by 2015. Given that our economy is agro-based, Malawi has one of the highest budgetary allocations to agriculture and food security, part of which has been used in the past two years to subsidize hybrid seeds and fertilizers, with a view to increasing food production. Currently Malawi has a food surplus amounting to 1.4 million tonnes over and above our national requirements. Part of the surplus produce has been exported to neighbouring countries in the southern Africa region.

While challenges remain, Malawi's recent experience in food production provides important lessons for achieving food security in Africa. One of those lessons is that African Governments need to make bold decisions, such as to subsidize farm inputs as long as the aim is to eradicate extreme poverty. For that reason, Malawi will continue with its subsidy programme until we reach an acceptable level of security in the country.

In addition to agricultural production, Malawi has given infrastructure development a high position in its sustainable development programme. In that regard, it has presented to NEPAD two infrastructure projects aimed at enhancing productivity and access to international trade.

The first is the Mozambique-Malawi transmission interconnection project, which is intended to increase access to diversified, reliable and affordable supplies of energy and to expand both Malawi's and Mozambique's opportunities to benefit from bilateral and regional power trading on the Southern African Power Pool. The project consists of three components: first, the construction of a transmission interconnection line from the Malawi electricity grid to the Mozambique electricity grid, thereby interconnecting Malawi with the Southern African Power Pool network; secondly, capacity building and technical support to upgrade and expand power trading; and, thirdly, the replacement of obsolete equipment. The project, supported by the World Bank, will remove bottlenecks in the supply of electricity in Malawi, which have stifled economic growth over the years.

The second project is the Shire-Zambezi waterway project, which aims to connect landlocked Malawi to the sea through the Shire river in southern Malawi and the Zambezi river in Mozambique over a distance of 238 kilometres, which is the shortest route to the sea for Malawi's import and export trade. The project will provide a multimodal inland transport linkage within the southern and eastern African regions and beyond, and promote the competitiveness of the countries of those regions in the international market. It will also substantially reduce the import and export transport costs.

Those two projects are in line with NEPAD's goal of enhancing sustainable economic growth through regional economic cooperation and integration. They are also in line with the Almaty Programme of Action for landlocked developing countries and the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, both of which aim to address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and least developed countries. Malawi belongs to both categories.

We urge the international community to support, through NEPAD, the initiatives Malawi has embarked upon under those two infrastructure projects to facilitate its desire to bring prosperity for its people. We believe that the international community has an urgent responsibility to ensure that excellent initiatives, such as the electricity and waterway projects, succeed in practice.

We commend the NEPAD secretariat for the work it is doing, and urge it to increase its advocacy role with regard to the MDGs, market access, official development assistance reform and the adoption of NEPAD principles and priorities by African Governments.

Before I conclude, I would like to say that Malawi has acceded to the African Peer Review Mechanism and is among the countries that have contributed to the Trust Fund set up by the United Nations Development Programme to support the implementation of the Mechanism.

We look forward to the General Assembly's decision to convene a high-level meeting on Africa's development needs, as requested by resolution 61/229.

We also join those who have thanked the developed countries for their assistance to launching the NEPAD e-schools initiative. Malawi considers information technology to be a priority for Africa's development. We hope that the initiative will be replicated in all African countries as soon as possible, to bridge the digital divide between Africa and other countries and to open up new economic opportunities for Africa's young generation.

Mr. Liu Zhenmin (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): First, the Chinese delegation would like to express its condolences on the death of the Prime Minister of Myanmar.

The Chinese delegation fully endorses the statement made by the representative of Pakistan on behalf of the G77 and China.

We thank the Secretary-General for his fifth consolidated report (A/62/203) on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and his report on causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/62/204). We endorse their conclusions and recommendations.

Since the launch of NEPAD, African countries have made tremendous implementation efforts. In recent years the African economies have maintained a healthy growth rate, creating conditions for the elimination of poverty and the realization of sustainable development. However, as stated in the Secretary-General's report, most African countries are still not on track in terms of implementing most of the Millennium Declaration Goals (MDGs).

With regard to both last year's implementation of NEPAD and the development report, China wishes to stress the following points.

First, African countries should play a leading role in implementing NEPAD. It is necessary to take multifaceted measures to address the big gap between international support and Africa's practical needs. We must adopt measures on all fronts.

The international community — the developed countries in particular — should honour commitments, increase assistance, open markets, cancel debts and reduce conditions attached to assistance. In the meantime, assistance should be assured in the priority areas defined by the practical needs of the African countries, and the quality of assistance should be improved. In addition, African countries must be helped with development capacity building in order to enhance their ability to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) and raise funds themselves.

Secondly, one focus of NEPAD is helping African countries benefit from economic globalization. To this end, countries should make joint efforts to complete the Doha round of negotiations as soon as possible. The major developed countries should drastically cut their agricultural subsidies to facilitate the export of competitive African products. Commitments to trade assistance should be effectively fulfilled to help African countries enhance their ability to take part in international trade.

Thirdly, South-South cooperation should be further enhanced. As a beneficial supplement to North-South cooperation, South-South cooperation has huge potential. As the continent with the largest number of developing countries, Africa should play a bigger role in South-South cooperation.

For decades China and the African countries have treated each other with sincerity, engaged in mutual support and achieved remarkable results in South-South cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual benefits. China actively supports the implementation of NEPAD by African countries. The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), set up in 2000, shares with NEPAD not only the same goals of promoting mutually beneficial cooperation and common development, but also the same priority areas.

At the FOCAC Beijing Summit last year President Hu Jintao announced, on behalf of the Chinese Government, eight policy measures aimed at strengthening practical cooperation between China and Africa and supporting the development of African countries. Those measures include increasing assistance to Africa by providing loans and export buyers' credit on preferential terms, setting up the China-Africa Development Fund, assisting the construction of the African Union conference centre, cancelling the debts of some African countries, giving tariff-free access to the products of some African countries, establishing zones of economic and trade cooperation, and strengthening cooperation between China and Africa in areas such as the development of human resources, agriculture, health and education.

On the margins of the general debate at this session of the General Assembly, the Foreign Minister of China and dozens of his African counterparts held their first political dialogue and issued a statement. The meeting was a resounding success; it was here that Foreign Ministers exchanged views on implementation of the Beijing Summit agreements. China will continuously strengthen its cooperation with the African countries on the basis of sincerity and friendship, consultation on an equal footing, efficiency, pragmatism, mutual benefit and gains for all.

The United Nations bears the important responsibility of maintaining world peace and security. For it to successfully fulfil this noble mission, it needs the trust and support of its Member States, the assistance and cooperation of regional and subregional organizations and unremitting efforts to exploring innovative and creative methods.

China believes that preventive diplomacy should be accorded high priority in addressing the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. History has shown that the prevention of crisis and conflict is much more effective than remedial measures taken afterwards. Over the past five years the United Nations has spent more than $18 billion on peacekeeping. Effective prevention will not only greatly reduce peacekeeping expenses, but also spare numerous people from the scourge of war.

To prevent and settle African conflicts, it is necessary to identify their causes. Most armed conflicts on the African continent are rooted in poverty and under-development. Only through properly addressing the root causes, especially the development issue, can

we seize the initiative in conflict prevention and improve the effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping.

We also believe that coordination and cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations should be strongly reinforced. The African Union, taking advantage of its experience in preventing and settling African conflicts, has in recent years played an ever more important role in responding, on behalf of the international community, to conflicts in Africa.

On the one hand, the United Nations should continue to enhance its cooperation with the African Union Peace and Security Council to make full use of its early warning mechanism and Africa's peacekeeping capability. On the other hand, it should provide assistance of various kinds to the African Union to help it with capacity building.

In spite of the long distance between us, China and Africa have traditionally maintained friendly relations. China regards Africa as an important actor in our joint efforts to maintain world peace and seek common development. We greatly appreciate the results achieved by the African countries in addressing their problems through united efforts and with the support of the international community. We will continue to work with the African countries in support of their pursuit of greater achievements in political security and development. China will make its own efforts in this process.

Mr. Cho Hyun (Republic of Korea): On behalf of my delegation, I thank the Secretary-General for his insightful report (A/62/203) on progress in implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). It provides us a valuable opportunity to consider what African States have achieved so far, how they should direct their development processes, and what other countries can do to help them reach internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

As we look back to the past from the halfway point to 2015, we can see that substantial progress has been made towards achieving the MDGs. However, as the Secretary-General notes in his report, progress is slow and uneven. Unfortunately, most African countries are not yet on track for meeting most of the MDGs. We all understand that the MDGs will not be truly achieved if the African States do not reach their targets.

My delegation believes that what is needed to spur growth and development in Africa is a combination of African commitment and international support. NEPAD, a collective vision and strategic development framework for Africa, represents the will of Africans for development. My delegation commends the strenuous efforts of African countries to implement the Partnership. We are pleased by the progress achieved in infrastructure, agriculture, health, education, information and communications technologies and other important areas, as reported by the Secretary-General.

At the same time, the international community has been supporting NEPAD through a number of international actions and initiatives. Moreover, the United Nations system has stood firmly as an important pillar of international support for NEPAD. My delegation especially welcomes and supports the Secretary-General's initiative in launching the Africa Steering Group, which will work as the central United Nations vehicle for African development.

My delegation believes that the African Peer Review Mechanism process is instrumental in putting mutual accountability to work for good economic, political and corporate governance and human rights observance. Therefore, although the process has been slow, it is inspiring to see that, as of June this year, 26 countries — accounting for approximately 75 per cent of Africa's total population — have acceded to the Review Mechanism. We hope that the accession process will be accelerated, helping NEPAD to achieve greater effectiveness through greater synergy.

While we note encouraging progress on debt relief, we also recognize that more timely and faithful delivery of official development aid commitments to Africa is needed. As pledged in Korea's Initiative for Africa's Development, the Republic of Korea is in the process of substantially increasing our overall development assistance to Africa by 2008.

At the same time, drawing lessons from our own history of development, we place emphasis not only on increasing the scale of our aid, but also on effectively sharing our experience with African countries. The Korea-Africa Forum, launched last November as a regular consultation channel, will serve as a good opportunity to share our experience.

We also support African ownership of Africa's development, and to that end will cooperate with African regional organizations such as the African Union and NEPAD. We will also cooperate closely with international institutions and other donors to improve aid effectiveness.

Trade has long been recognized as the engine of development. In that connection, we strongly support early resumption and completion of the Doha Development Round of World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations. My Government also supports Aid for Trade, particularly for Africa, which is home to almost two thirds of the world's least developed countries. To that end, the Republic of Korea is expanding duty-free and quota-free access for least developed countries. We will also increase our contribution to the Integrated Framework for least developed countries and expand our training programmes on WTO rules and regulations.

The digital divide, if it continues to widen, may evolve into a serious obstacle that prevents developing countries from participating in the international business system, which is increasingly dependent on information and communication technologies. As we pledged in Korea's Initiative for Africa's Development, the Republic of Korea will cooperate with African partners to bridge the digital divide by sharing our technologies and know-how.

In that context, I would like to emphasize the importance of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation as complements to North-South partnership. My delegation therefore supports the efforts of the African countries to intensify and enhance South-South cooperation as well as triangular cooperation in order to promote growth and development in that region.

Durable peace and stability are prerequisites for sustainable development. It is encouraging to see the significant progress made recently in achieving peace and stability in Africa. My delegation fully supports the goal of achieving a conflict-free Africa by 2010. The Republic of Korea will continue to support post-conflict peacebuilding activities within the United Nations framework and through other forms of international cooperation.

We also welcome the United Nations initiative to eradicate epidemic diseases, including malaria and HIV/AIDS. Far too many African lives, especially among the youngest generations, are lost to epidemic diseases. The youngest generations are the future of Africa. In addition to their terrible human toll, these diseases undermine development efforts. The Republic of Korea will strongly support international efforts to eliminate these epidemics in Africa.

As the Secretary-General points out in his report, African development will not be realized through the efforts of any single player. Rather, it will require a joint effort by African countries, the international community and the United Nations. The Republic of Korea, together with other development partners, will stand with African countries in accelerating growth and achieving the MDGs.

Mr. Carmon (Israel): Allow me to congratulate Mr. Srgjan Kerim on his able stewardship of the Assembly and to thank him for convening this important joint debate.

Israel welcomes the Secretary-General's fifth consolidated report (A/62/203) on progress in implementation and international support related to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The report examines policy actions taken by the international community to help African countries meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and implement NEPAD projects and programmes.

Israel wishes to reiterate its strong support for the development initiatives and principles of the African Union. The existence of an enterprise owned, led and managed by the African Union is an outstanding example of the effectiveness of regional initiative and cooperation. By balancing the principles of responsibility, solidarity and partnership, NEPAD has improved the chances for progress and prosperity on the African continent.

In that regard, we commend the accession to date of 26 African countries to the African Peer Review Mechanism, which reflects the genuine desire of those African nations to make good on the promises of NEPAD: good governance, democracy, peace and security, respect for human rights and sound economic management. Taken together, those States account for 75 per cent of the total population of the continent. Israel encourages those countries that have not undergone the process to consider doing so soon. Similarly, the full mobilization of African resources should be facilitated, as it is inherently tied to NEPAD's success.

Israel also welcomes the commitment of the United Nations to strengthen collaboration and coordination among its components in order to provide the necessary support for the effective implementation of NEPAD, and endorses the recommendations in the Secretary-General's report.

Israel has always considered its relations with Africa to be of the highest priority. Beginning in the late 1950s, when it was still a developing country itself, Israel sought to build development partnerships with the newly independent States of sub-Saharan Africa. Indeed, earlier this year, on Africa Day, Israel celebrated 50 years of African relations during a special ceremony dedicated to honouring and promoting the Israeli-African relationship, with a focus on partnerships for development.

With that long record of cooperative work in Africa and the continuing tradition of friendship and solidarity, Israel offers its experience and expertise through MASHAV — the Centre for International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs — assisting NEPAD and helping the African States. That is accomplished by sharing know-how in such areas as agriculture, food security, the empowerment of women, education and health, bilaterally or with the participation of United Nations development funds and programmes.

A sense of MASHAV's impact is given by the fact that last year 568 African trainees from 33 countries participated in 112 different courses in Israel, in fields including agriculture, community development, education, medicine and public health, science and technology and small enterprises. An additional 688 African trainees participated in on-site courses in 13 African States. Israel also dispatched 20 experts for short- and long-term consultancies in 9 different countries on the African continent.

In addition to bilateral aid and training programmes, Israel actively supports international initiatives such as the World Bank's International Development Association programmes and the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative programme for debt reduction. Israel has already forgiven the debt of a number of African countries, and will continue to consider additional debt relief for others, to the extent that resources allow.

The pandemic of malaria in Africa, which claims the lives of an estimated 3,000 infants and children daily, is a tragedy of unparalleled proportions. Malaria is a curable disease, and the answer lies in strengthening the African medical and public health infrastructure. Israel has been doing all it can in that regard, in particular to address the "human resources for health" crisis.

To address HIV in Africa, specially designed courses for local medical staff have taken place in Israel, enjoying the participation of more than 27 African doctors and nurses. The health care teams have also included social workers and cultural mediators, who often provide care and combat non-adherence to drug treatment. The training covers issues such as HIV drug resistance and paediatric AIDS, and a meticulous chain of reporting is maintained within the team.

With regard to public health, Israel is proposing the establishment of a community health centre concept, based on an Israeli model called Tipat Halav, which literally means "a drop of milk". In Israel, these clinics have helped diminish infant mortality, maternal morbidity and mortality, and have proved to be an effective tool for mother and child health education. The programme is replicable and has a wide range of applicability. A prenatal health care clinic and emergency centre, in line with the project I have just mentioned, has already been established in Ghana.

Israel also conducts blindness prevention and eye care missions in African partner countries with limited eye treatment facilities. These missions are undertaken by teams of two to three Israeli ophthalmologists in local hospitals or clinics. Hundreds of surgical procedures are performed by the visiting Israeli teams, working together with local staff and restoring sight to many patients. Israeli ophthalmologists also train the local personnel, and ophthalmological equipment and supplies are donated by the Government of Israel.

It has been noted that, while we have reached the midpoint to the deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in 2015, the unfortunate reality is that most African countries are off track to meet most, if not all, of the Goals. By adopting NEPAD, which is built around the MDGs, African countries have put the MDGs at the centre of their development agenda.

As achievement of the MDGs is strongly linked to technology transfer and technical cooperation, Israel is increasing its contribution to development, and will continue to do its utmost in that regard, as it has over

the past four decades. Israel is in the process of creating new and innovative partnerships and strengthening its relationship with Member States and United Nations funds and programmes in these areas.

For its part, Israel belongs to a group of like-minded countries looking for ways to collaborate on initiatives promoting the transfer of technologies for sustainable development and in fields such as agriculture, water, renewable energy and natural resources. To that end, we hope to see in the Second Committee later during this session the adoption of a resolution on agricultural technologies for development.

Although Israel's assistance to Africa may appear rather modest to some, it is worth stressing that, as a nation of barely 7 million citizens, Israel, carrying heavy financial burdens as a result of the need to defend its existence, makes a per capita contribution to Africa that is among the most significant in the world. On the basis of an enduring friendship, we are committed to working together with African countries to build on the momentum of NEPAD and achieve its promised outcome.

We do so because we are convinced that the challenges facing Africa are part of our collective responsibility and inherent in our moral traditions and Jewish ethics. We do so because we believe in the potential of Africa and its people, the importance of partnership and good-neighbourliness. And we do so because we believe in fulfilling commitments.

Ms. Viotti (Brazil): This timely meeting gives Member States the opportunity to focus on matters relevant not only to Africa, but to the entire international community.

Africa's interests and needs are central to the Organization Africa's interests and needs are central to this Organization, and must be addressed as such. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is part of our collective response to those interests and needs. We believe it is helping to overcome years of social and economic struggles that have thwarted the best hopes for the continent.

The international community's commitment to support Africa and NEPAD is closely associated with the implementation of pledges made by donors at international summits and conferences. We reiterate that every effort must be made to deliver on commitments undertaken in bilateral and multilateral arrangements related to NEPAD.

Our success will not be judged by the number and magnitude of pledges. Rather, it will be gauged by the actual support we give to the determination shown by African Governments and societies to eliminate obstacles to peace and development.

In extending such support, either through NEPAD or other means, one fundamental concept must be retained and concretely applied: what is needed is not simply a partnership for Africa; we must also partner with Africa. That is precisely the concept behind much of Brazil's cooperation with African countries in areas such as health, education, agriculture, science and technology and energy.

Through HIV/AIDS projects, Brazil has been donating lifesaving drugs to five countries, and it plans to expand such assistance to other nations. More important, we integrate and coordinate an international technical cooperation network committed to facilitating the transfer of technology for the production of antiretroviral drugs in Africa.

In the last five years approximately 3,000 students from 18 African countries have joined free graduate and post-graduate programmes in Brazilian universities. By helping to form skilled professionals, we hope to contribute to the long-term sustainability of social and economic development in Africa.

In Ghana we have opened the first overseas office of EMBRAPA, the agricultural research corporation that lies at the heart of the agricultural revolution that has taken place in Brazil in the last decades. Brazil and its African partners will work on projects related to crops of great importance for many countries in the region, such as tropical fruits, cotton, rice, cashew nuts and manioc. We are optimistic that lessons learned in Brazil can be useful in restoring, expanding and strengthening the economic sector that is vital to numerous countries in the continent.

In a related area, Brazil is proposing cooperation in the production of clean and renewable sources of energy: ethanol and biodiesel. Soil and climate conditions found in many parts of Africa are suited to producing such fuels. The potential economic and social impact of such cooperation is immense and extremely positive.

These are some of the initiatives that Brazil has developed with Governments in Africa. But partnering with Africa requires more. Serious and constant efforts are needed to make the multilateral system increasingly more responsive to the interests and needs of Africa.

The successful conclusion of the World Trade Organization Doha Round; the strengthening of bodies such as the Economic and Social Council; a meaningful reform of the Security Council; and the revitalization of the General Assembly — those are all instances where Brazil already works with African countries. We are fully prepared to deepen our cooperation in these crucial endeavours. Accomplishment of these efforts will help to provide safe and stable ground for development and peace in Africa, and therefore will benefit the international community as a whole.

Those two elements — sustainable support and increased multilateral responsiveness — constitute the core message that President Lula has delivered to African leaders in his official trips to the continent, the latest of which, incidentally, ended today. This is the message I have been instructed to deliver in my dealings with delegations of all Member States, African and non-African. More important, this is the message Brazil will seek to turn into deeds in all United Nations initiatives related to Africa. My delegation is confident that the Assembly will be sensitive to this call.

Mr. Abdulatif (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (*spoke in Arabic*): My delegation wishes at the outset to support the statements made by Benin on behalf of the Group of African States and by the representative of Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

I wish to express my appreciation for the reports of the Secretary-General on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (A/62/203) and on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/62/204).

As the Assembly knows, of all the continents, the African continent is the most affected by wars, conflict, poverty, underdevelopment, illiteracy, malnutrition and the spread of deadly diseases such as AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. This jeopardizes the lives of millions of its peoples, in spite of the continent's wealth and untapped riches.

The main challenges facing development in Africa are reflected in the full implementation of a true international partnership for development, through the fulfilment by the international community of its commitments and an appeal to the developed countries to support development in Africa by formulating concrete programmes of action aimed at attaining the Millennium Development Goals.

Similarly, the African countries must continue to take steps that could lead to the effective implementation of the various projects and programmes under the rubric of the New Partnership. My country maintains that the achievement of debt cancellations should be coupled with more efforts to achieve the Goal of the official development assistance for Africa, as well as support for African economic structures and exports and improved access of such exports to international markets so that the continent can participate in international trade.

The amount of aid given at present to roll back malaria falls short of the Goals, due to the lack of finances, lack of expertise, the weakness of health structures and substandard products. International support also has fallen short of rendering the Partnership initiative for the sustainable development of Africa strong and effective.

My country reiterates that we should cooperate towards integrating NEPAD into the structures and institutions of the African Union in a manner that will guarantee united efforts and avoidance of overlapping. Strengthening cooperation between the Union and the United Nations is of paramount importance, because then the continent can make use of United Nations expertise and experience in maintaining peace and attaining stability, thus devoting itself to sustainable development and peace.

Mr. Christian (Ghana): I join preceding speakers in thanking the Secretary-General for his comprehensive reports on the items under consideration.

We support the statements made by Benin and Pakistan on behalf of the Group of African States and of the Group of 77 and China, respectively.

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) was adopted by African leaders as a strategic development framework to address the myriad challenges facing the continent and its people. African leaders recognized that increasing poverty, underdevelopment and continuous marginalization

required a new radical intervention led by Africans themselves. NEPAD was therefore created to provide a platform to confront the challenges and champion Africa's renewal.

Ghana and Africa have evidence to show that the international community has been a faithful partner in the development efforts of our continent. The numerous activities supported by our development partners and the wider international community demonstrate their commitment to helping African countries achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

There is evidence that poverty levels in some countries have generally declined since 1990, and progress has also been made in other dimensions of human development, such as access to education and reductions in child mortality. However, as can be observed, the progress has been rather slow and uneven, and in most cases falls far short of the promises made. Many African countries are still struggling to meet the objective of reducing poverty and hunger. Even in countries that have made substantial improvements there are still groups that remain trapped in extreme poverty.

Apart from the demonstrable commitment shown by African countries to the ideals envisioned in the NEPAD, there is visible evidence that many countries have demonstrated their resolve to take ownership of their own development agenda. Nevertheless, the need for a strong global partnership in support of Africa's development cannot be overemphasized, because the critical needs of African countries cannot be solved by national or regional efforts alone. Concerns such as external debt, climate change, global trade policy, technology and financing for development are among the issues that can only be effectively addressed at the global level.

Over the past year there has been some progress in extending and deepening debt relief through the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) and the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative, complemented by bilateral debt relief granted by the Group of Eight countries and other donors. But, despite the decline in the debt stock relative to gross domestic product, total debt service obligations remained almost unchanged, dropping from 4.2 per cent in 2005 to 4.1 per cent in 2006, due to higher interest rates. The debt burden contains spending on public investment and ultimately retards growth and employment generation.

This raises the question of additionality of aid, which was supposed to be a key component of the HIPC Initiative. Yet official development assistance (ODA) has declined. According to some accounts, current and projected levels of ODA fall short of the Group of Eight pledge in 2005 to double aid to Africa by 2010, even when debt relief is included.

In addition, the Secretary-General's report expresses concern about the capacity of the International Development Association (IDA) and the African Development Fund to issue new grants and affordable loans. The report notes that as of May this year donor countries had made commitments for less than half of the additional $10 billion required by the two bodies from 2006 to 2016. This shortfall, the report indicates, needs urgent attention.

On malaria prevention, we acknowledge the increased international funding following the creation of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. In addition, recent pledges from donors have raised our expectations that more funds will be available for malaria, a long-term major killer in Africa.

But charity, they say, begins at home. So, while the international community is called on to do more, it behoves African leaders to also continue pursuing prudent policies that will enhance their domestic resource mobilization and also attract foreign investment, as well as making judicious use of resources that accrue from debt relief, among other things.

In its contribution to last year's debate, Ghana said that we were awaiting the day when a Secretary-General's report would be replete with information about Africa's economic, financial, development and technological advancement as well as economic progress, while making less mention of conflicts. We have not yet reached that milestone, but evidence on the ground provides some relief that progress is gradually being made on a number of fronts.

Today Africa is afflicted with far fewer conflicts than it was a decade ago. Sierra Leone and Liberia are among the success stories. Challenges still remain, including the crisis in Darfur, whose resolution must continue to be of priority to the United Nations.

The improved effectiveness and readiness of the international community, including the African countries themselves, to respond to conflict through peacekeeping has been a major factor in containing violent conflict. It needs mentioning also that much of the credit for the improvement of the security situation rests with Africa. The African Union Peace and Security Architecture and the conflict management mechanisms of regional organizations, such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), are the building blocks which provide capacity for peace and security on the continent.

But much of all these efforts will achieve little success unless African countries and their peoples continue to show commitment to these ideals. We must do more on our own to provide the congenial environment for the continent's development.

Mr. Natama (Burkina Faso) (*spoke in French*): First, I congratulate the President and the other members of the bureau on their direction of the work of this session. My delegation renews its readiness to contribute its full cooperation in the achievement of the President's mission.

I thank the Secretariat for the relevance of the reports (A/62/203, A/62/204 and A/62/321) presented for our consideration. They are concise and precise, which makes them easy to use.

My delegation fully associates itself with the statements made by Benin on behalf of the Group of African States, and by Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, but wishes to make some comments on the subjects before us.

The present session is being held halfway to the 2015 deadline to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), whose implementation on the African continent goes hand in hand with implementation of the projects of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

Following the United Nations conference that produced the Millennium Declaration, adopted on 8 September 2000, the African Heads of State, wishing to implement the principles of good political and economic governance and to improve progress towards development, conceived a strategic development framework supported by a collective vision for the whole continent. That vision and strategic framework constitute the matrix of NEPAD, whose overall objective is to accelerate sustained economic growth and durable development in Africa, and thus to contribute to the achievement of the MDGs in that part of the world.

The need for the practice of good governance as a way to achieve better management of municipal and other public affairs was expressed by Mr. Blaise Compaoré, President of Burkina Faso, at the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen in March 1995, in the following terms:

> "Good governance should be understood both as a means and a goal of development, guaranteeing the participation of the people, political stability, institutional development and respect for human rights".

It was following that line of thinking that the 38th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity adopted the Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance (AHG/235 (XXXVIII), annex I) on 8 July 2002 in Durban, South Africa. Its preamble is the best illustration of that acceptance, along with the establishment of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).

All those initiatives by African leaders are important milestones. They show genuine commitment to a new beginning for the continent, which is being realized today by the spontaneous and voluntary adherence of 27 States to the APRM. I did, indeed, say 27 and not 26, because this morning Djibouti became the twenty-seventh country to sign the memorandum of understanding in adhesion to the APRM.

It should be emphasized here that my country, which adheres to the APRM, regards evaluation by one's peers as an indispensable development tool, because of its considerable impact in reinforcing the institutional, political and economic capacities of our States. There is no doubt that the evaluations of Ghana, Rwanda, Kenya, Algeria and South Africa give irrefutable proof of the determination of the African States to establish a healthy, propitious environment for transparent management.

As for work in progress, we would mention my country's launch of the self-assessment process three weeks ago, with a view to bringing the process of

evaluation by its peers to a conclusion in the first half of 2008.

By adopting NEPAD, whose sectoral objectives are based on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the African countries placed the Goals at the heart of their development programmes and their strategies for fighting poverty. Henceforth, the African economic growth sought in the NEPAD framework no longer constitutes a simple condition for the reduction of poverty, but must also be seen as a result of that reduction. Accordingly, economic growth capable of contributing to the eradication of poverty is based on a growing dynamism of the private sector, with free trade as its motor.

At the same time, the numerous macroeconomic imbalances in African States, due to unfavourable international economic trends, point to the crucial role that increasing aid and reducing the debt can play in raising the living standards of millions of people living in extreme poverty.

That is why, from the beginning, with the vision of NEPAD focused on the idea of partnership, the African leaders have insisted on the need for Africa to create with the rest of the world — so that globalization may be equitable and profitable to all — a new spirit of solidarity. The goal is to build a common future for humanity, in all its diversity, based on the condition that we share as human beings.

This, then, is an appeal to the continent's partners to make an effort to create policies and measures at the world level that not only meet the needs of African countries, but will also be formulated and implemented with their real participation.

At a time when we want to make an evaluation halfway to 2015, we must admit that Africa is lagging in the achievement of most, if not all, the MDGs. Certainly, despite the progress made by the continent in numerous areas in recent years, Africans bear a measure of responsibility. However, the responsibility of the international community should not be downplayed. In this regard, we appreciate the frankness of the reports, which eloquently underline the failure of Africa's partners to respect their commitments to support the implementation of NEPAD.

My delegation agrees with the report of the Secretary-General about the problems and constraints in implementing NEPAD, and in particular the question of weak institutional capacities for planning and executing development programmes at the national and regional levels, as well as the problem of insufficient resources.

In any case, in the spirit of the New Partnership, the principle of the collective responsibility of all the countries of the continent should prevail in the resolution of these problems. In this connection, my country, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme, will host, from 24 to 26 October, the Seventh Africa Governance Forum, with the theme "Building the Capable State in Africa".

Regarding resources, the idea of basing financing sources for NEPAD on African countries themselves is at the beginning stages of implementation. Success could make it easier to obtain support from development partners.

As for the mobilization of the international community — so far timid, according to the report — it is desirable that it evolve along with the efforts and seriousness demonstrated by African leaders. Moreover, Africa is waiting for the support of the international community in the crucial area of access to the markets of the countries of the North. It is also desirable that multilateral commercial agreements — notably, those resulting from the final negotiations of the Doha Round — prioritize the needs of Africa and include provisions on development adapted to those needs.

The success of NEPAD requires a shared approach to its implementation. Burkina Faso believes that the debate should be pursued at national level in each African State, so that each sector of the population may understand this initiative and take ownership of its contents. The political will strongly expressed by Heads of State will remain just a good intention if communities at grassroots level do not become involved in implementation, especially since the social environment is as important as good governance, stability and many other factors in the decision-making process of international investors, public and private.

That is why Burkina Faso is engaged in an extensive campaign to raise awareness on NEPAD and its tool to promote good governance, the APRM. The campaign includes forums to exchange views with civil

society, universities and national and local decision-makers.

My country intends to pursue its advocacy, while emphasizing the execution of development projects, in accordance with NEPAD's guiding principles, on whose basis Burkina Faso has adjusted its national strategy in the fight against poverty.

I cannot end without acknowledging the inestimable contribution that the United Nations system has been making for decades to help Africa emerge from underdevelopment.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.

United Nations A/62/PV.29

General Assembly

Sixty-second session

Official Records

29th plenary meeting
Friday, 19 October 2007, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Kerim ..... (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

In the absence of the President, Ms. Bethel (Bahamas), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda items 64 and 47 (*continued*)

New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

(a) New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

Report of the Secretary-General (A/62/203)

(b) Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General (A/62/204)

2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa

Note by the Secretary-General (A/62/321)

Mr. Yousfi (Algeria) (*spoke in French*): I would like to begin by thanking the Secretary-General for the reports made available to us on this agenda item and for the very useful presentation of the reports.

My delegation believes that the two reports of the Secretary-General are an excellent basis for our deliberations on the causes of conflict and the annual review of progress and support by the international community for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). We are also pleased to note that considerable progress has been made with respect to peace, security and development in Africa.

With respect to security, which still is fundamental to the maintenance of peace and to long-term development, we support the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. The recommendations stress the crucial and decisive need to allocate additional resources, both human and financial, to support the resources and effectiveness of peacekeeping operations conducted by the African Union in Darfur, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Côte d'Ivoire.

In this connection, Algeria is pleased to note the establishment by the United Nations in 2006 of a cross-cutting programme that focuses on providing full support to African peacekeeping operations, and we welcome the efforts made by the United Nations to reinforce the operational capacities of the African Peace and Security Council and its related institutions, such as the Panel of the Wise, the African standby force and the Continental Early Warning System.

Despite the positive trends, the report also draws our attention to the impact of complex problems affecting stability in Africa, in particular infectious diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, the effects of global warming and climate change, extremely high levels of unemployment among youth, trafficking in persons, massive population shifts, the appearance of terrorist networks and growing transnational organized crime.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

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Against this background, the new challenges to peace and security require a new approach based on African capacities, a proper understanding of the problems, political will and strategic determination to restore ownership of reconstruction and peacebuilding activities to Africa.

With respect to development-related activities, my delegation agrees with the analysis and the concerns voiced with respect to evaluating international support for the new programme for Africa's development. The assessment the Secretary-General gives in his report points out that indeed, despite significant initiatives and commitments undertaken by development partners following the Millennium Summit, such as the Group of Eight (G-8) decision in Gleneagles on debt alleviation and official development assistance (ODA), as well as the support graciously provided by non-G-8 countries, most African countries are, unfortunately, lagging significantly in implementing most of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the year 2015.

The implementation of the multilateral and bilateral debt alleviation initiative, as well as progress made in other areas, such as effective liberalization of international trade, the final arrangements of the Doha Round — these should be important stages in implementing the objectives set by the international community for development on the African continent.

In order to do this, we believe it is important — indeed, imperative — for all of the international community, in particular developed countries, to be more closely involved and honour the commitments that they undertook at the Millennium Summit in the year 2000, as well as those of the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey in 2002, the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002 and the 2005 World Summit.

The United Nations system must play a significant role in helping support African efforts to develop the continent. Such cooperation is essential in order to ensure a global framework for cooperation, involving solidarity and partnership and designed to mobilize the resources necessary to combat underdevelopment and poverty and to reduce the widening gap between North and South.

Algeria has spared no effort in implementing the Millennium Development Goals in its national development policy through specific actions and has also worked within the NEPAD framework to promote all efforts designed to ensure development of the African continent. The consolidation of reforms at the domestic level via the enhancement of democracy and the rule of law, which constitute important levers for achieving good governance, is part of the framework that we are following in modernizing our State, our economy and our society.

It is in this spirit that Algeria has voluntarily submitted itself to peer review, under the African mechanism set up to this end. This initiative is designed for African countries to be able to make specific contributions to enshrining good governance in each African country and on the continent as a whole. A report was submitted to heads of States members of the African Peer Review Mechanism in Accra in June 2007; the report was noted very positively by our Mechanism, which was very pleased to see Algeria's considerable progress in the economic, social and good governance areas.

In conclusion, I should like to note with satisfaction the growing number of African countries that have voluntarily chosen to submit themselves to this peer review mechanism, which is indeed a clear success in the NEPAD initiative in promoting a real culture of good governance and peace on the continent.

Mr. Swe (Myanmar): May I first of all take this opportunity to express my delegation's deep gratitude to the President of the General Assembly, the Chairman of the Group of 77 and China, the Chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and all others for their messages of condolence on the passing away of His Excellency General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar.

I wish also to extend our heartfelt condolences to the Government and people of Pakistan on the tragic incident yesterday that resulted in the loss of life of over 120 people. Terrorism in any form or manifestation must be condemned.

I wish to thank the Secretary-General and the World Health Organization for their very useful reports. Myanmar fully associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on this agenda item. My delegation also associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Singapore on behalf of the member States of ASEAN.

The statement of the President of the General Assembly has highlighted the deadly impact of malaria on the world community, particularly on the African continent. Almost a million people have perished in Africa owing to malaria — a situation that is preventable, provided the necessary resources are forthcoming. In addition to the human toll, the economic cost of malaria to Africa is around $12 billion. This has negatively impacted on people's health, as well as on the development prospects for the entire African continent. The status quo must not be allowed to continue. We strongly urge the international community to provide effective assistance and adequate resources to advance the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) health strategy.

NEPAD is a mechanism that represents the collective desire and commitment of the African countries to meet the challenges they face, so that they can achieve sustainable economic and social development. More importantly, it is a vision that encourages African countries to take charge of their own destiny by fighting poverty and promoting development. Notwithstanding the determined efforts taken by African countries, the prognosis for the continent achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015 remains bleak, particularly in the sub-Sahara region.

The situation calls for action, not only on the part of the African continent but also by the international community. Africa has demonstrated its commitment. The international community must do its part. That would entail further buttressing the Global Partnership for Development and the implementation of development commitments fully and expeditiously.

We share the concern about the overall decline of Official Development Assistance (ODA) flows to developing countries, including Africa. Commitments were made by the Group of Eight at Gleneagles in 2005 to double the aid to Africa by 2010. Despite a $2.3 billion increase in ODA for the period 2004-2006, there is still a shortfall of some $3.5 billion, if the pledge is to be implemented in full. Taking into consideration the fresh commitment by the Group of Eight at the Heiligendamm summit in 2007, we hope to see the fulfilment of these commitments in full and on time.

Free trade is an engine of growth that can facilitate the development roles of African countries. To take full advantage of the benefits of free trade, developing countries, particularly those in Africa, need a favourable international economic environment. That is why we need the Doha Round to be brought to a successful conclusion as soon as possible. To do that, we need, among other things, to resolve issues that are of importance to developing countries, particularly issues affecting Africa, such as agricultural market access and greater reduction in trade distorting agricultural subsidies. For developing countries, it is vital that they be in a position to participate effectively in the Doha Round negotiations. In this regard, my delegation fully supports the request by African countries for assistance in meeting sanitary and technical standards, and the costs of implementing other agreements of the World Trade Organization.

By adopting the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), African leaders have reaffirmed their commitment to a common vision of eradicating poverty in order to place their countries on the path towards sustainable development. It is incumbent on the international community and the United Nations to help Africa. We are pleased that the United Nations is doing its part and that it remains an important pillar of international support for Africa. While important steps towards providing support to the African Union and NEPAD have been taken in recent years by the United Nations, it must seek to further strengthen cooperation.

In sum, NEPAD is a regional initiative in which Africa will play a leading role. But without concerted international support, Africa will remain behind schedule in meeting the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. In this global village, we must work together and support African countries to achieve their worthy goals.

Mr. Nsengimana (Rwanda): First of all, I want to present, on behalf of my delegation and on my own behalf, our condolences to Myanmar and Pakistan.

I would like express my delegation's appreciation to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and to the World Health Organization for their respective reports under consideration today.

Rwanda fully associates itself with the statements of the Group of 77 and China and the Group of the

African States. We have a few additional points to make.

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is a vision to which Rwanda and other African countries attach great importance. It is a vision that offers the promise of Africa's renewal and development, with highest priority being accorded to the eradication of poverty, sustainable growth and development, integration into the global economy, and the empowerment of women. It is an initiative led, owned and managed by the African Union that calls for and recognizes the serious commitment from and the implementation of programmes by African Governments, as well as international support and partnership from development partner countries.

We welcome the policy measures and actions taken by African countries and organizations in the implementation of NEPAD in the areas of infrastructure development, agriculture, health, education, the environment, information and communication technology (ICT), science and technology, gender and peer review. Rwanda hosted the first country round table of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme at which the Rwanda Compact, representing a mutual commitment between Rwanda, the Commission of the African Union, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and development partners, was signed. The round table facilitated the undertaking of a comprehensive study to define national targets for the Programme and to delineate national policy challenges and support from ministries of finance and donors at the country level.

Rwanda was among the first countries to accede to and complete the peer review process under the African Peer Review Mechanism. We welcomed the views and recommendations of the peer review panel and are working in a constructive spirit to implement reforms that will benefit the country.

Rwanda is also proud to be an active participant in the NEPAD ICT vision. Rwanda was the first country to officially launch an e-schools initiative under NEPAD in October 2006. We have also launched a "One Laptop per Child" programme to be completed by 2012, a joint initiative between the Rwanda Government and leaders from the American private sector. Rwanda is also part of a 12-country initiative called the Kigali Protocol which aims to provide open access and affordable prices for high quality, high-speed and reliable electronic communications for end-users. Additionally, we are also proud to be hosting the "Connect Africa" summit in Kigali at the end of this month.

Rwanda welcomes the progress made so far in the implementation of international commitments on debt relief. Rwanda is a beneficiary of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative, which has freed resources for use in social development programmes. We also welcome progress on trade and South-South cooperation.

However, much more work still needs to be done in order for developing countries to fulfil their official development assistance (ODA) commitments. It is disappointing that ODA declined in real terms in 2005 and stalled in 2006. There is concern that it will decline even further in 2007.

Thus, the commitments of the Group of Eight countries in 2005 at Gleneagles to double aid to Africa by 2010 will become a challenge to fulfil. We therefore agree with the Secretary-General's assessment that there is need for new aid architecture based on closer coordination, greater harmonization, less fragmentation and better allocation of aid, as well as a genuine commitment to deliver on pledges.

The special needs of Africa are of such importance that they require the sustained attention of the United Nations. Rwanda therefore supports the convening of a high-level meeting on Africa's development needs during the sixty-third session. We believe that this meeting will help focus attention on Africa's unique challenges. We look forward to the support of all Member States for that meeting.

With respect to United Nations support for NEPAD, it is critical that the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, which oversees support for NEPAD, be strengthened. The Office is of great importance to Africa and plays a very important role in coordinating international support. The Office therefore cannot continue to fulfil the important mandate the General Assembly has assigned to it without a substantive head at the Under-Secretary-General level. We therefore wish to reiterate the call of the African Group for that post and other vacancies in the Office to be filled as soon as possible.

Regarding agenda item 64 (b) "Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa", I wish to acknowledge Africa's contributions to peace and security in the region. The African Peace and Security Architecture has been established, comprising the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council, a Panel of the Wise, a continental early-warning system and the beginnings of an African standby force. Those elements have already played a very constructive role in promoting peace and security in the region, and will continue to do so. Their capacities will be strengthened by the 10-year United Nations capacity-building programme for the African Union, which envisages, inter alia, enhanced cooperation in all phases of conflict management, early warning and preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peacekeeping, post-conflict reconstruction, peacebuilding and human rights.

Rwanda is proud to contribute to these efforts, both through the AU Peace and Security Council and through troop and police contributions to the AU and the United Nations. We welcome the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report on item 64 (b) (A/62/204) and look forward to their implementation, especially in terms of capacity-building.

Malaria imposes an unacceptable toll on the most vulnerable people, mostly in Africa, which accounts for 90 per cent of malaria deaths. The disease compounds the effects of poverty, weakening productive populations and thereby reducing their economic productivity. Yet the disease is preventable. We welcome the efforts of development partners in supporting Africa in confronting this problem. Also, we must commend private initiatives like that of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, whose support for a malaria vaccine has begun to yield positive results.

However, the World Health Organization report acknowledges that there is still a chronic lack of funding and capacity to support prevention programmes, such as those promoting insecticidal nets and indoor residual spraying. There is also a lack of funding for research. We must work together to address this problem so that malaria ceases to be such a challenge to socio-economic development in Africa.

Mr. Constantino (Angola): Allow me first to say that my delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by the representatives of Pakistan and Benin on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the African Group respectively.

We take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General for his fifth consolidated report on the progress in implementation of and international support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (A/62/203), as well as for the report on the Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Especially in Africa (A/62/321).

NEPAD represents a unique opportunity to meet the special needs of Africa through a global partnership. The success of this partnership is greatly dependant upon the degree to which each stakeholder honours its respective commitments. In this connection, my delegation is pleased with the progress achieved thus far, but remains convinced that our efforts remain insufficient and have not reached the limits of our abilities. This is evidenced by the fact that Africa remains the sole continent not on track to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

During the past year, African leaders, the NEPAD secretariat and development partners have engaged in a variety of forums aimed at developing national, subregional and regional projects in priority areas, such as agriculture, health, education and infrastructure; many of these are awaiting funding. In that connection, my delegation is of the view that if we are to succeed in achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development in Africa, through which we can eradicate poverty and hunger, substantial progress is required in the following areas.

First, we have to recognize that the challenge for development partners is to shift their assistance frameworks from humanitarian and emergency assistance to predictable quantitative and qualitative increases in development assistance in the social and economic areas. Secondly, we must all do our share to greatly improve the effectiveness of development assistance, while recognizing that that cannot be achieved without tackling the coordination of policies, measures and rules at all levels. Thirdly, we must all do more to honour our commitments. Scaling up aid involves the provision of additional adequate and sustained funding to meet the development needs of Africa. Finally, the international community should support reconstruction efforts aimed at economic competitiveness and capacity-building in the African private sector.

The objectives and action plans enunciated in NEPAD are consistent with internationally agreed development goals, and a global partnership is required for their achievement. My delegation is of the view that the United Nations has a very important role to play in that connection.

Within the United Nations system and beyond, a key function of the unique partnership to meet the special needs of Africa is maintaining the integrity of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa. In addition to playing its advocacy role, the Office can monitor to ensure that coordinated planning, monitoring, implementation and evaluation of activities is being carried out by the entire United Nations system, as directed by heads of State in the Millennium Declaration (resolution 55/2), the 2005 World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1) and the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences in the economic and social fields.

In conclusion, my delegation looks forward to the urgent filling of all existing vacancies in the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa. We consider that to be critical to the implementation of NEPAD.

Mr. Belinga-Eboutou (Cameroon) (*spoke in French*): My delegation is grateful to the Secretary-General for his two reports — one on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (A/62/203) and the other relating to causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/62/204) — submitted, respectively, under sub-items (a) and (b) of agenda item 64. Those two detailed documents are full of information and very enlightening, particularly with regard to the international community's fulfilment of its commitments vis-à-vis Africa.

The reports also shed light on the resolve of African countries themselves to intervene in conflicts in order to maintain peace and — to borrow the Secretary-General's excellent phrase — to achieve a conflict-free Africa. In fact, at the continental and subregional levels, they have developed a Peace and Security Architecture supported by mechanisms designed to predict, prevent, manage and resolve conflicts. The delegation of Cameroon hopes that the peace and security architecture developed by the Economic Community of Central African States will be duly described in the next report, as the mechanisms of the Economic Community of West African States and the Southern African Development Community are in the current one.

It is with the same concern to strengthen their security capacity that African countries are developing schools and centres for peacekeeping training. Thus, in addition to the centres in Mali and Ghana, there will soon be an international school in Cameroon. United Nations Member States are invited to hear a presentation about the school on Monday, 22 October 2007, at 11 a.m. in Conference Room 3.

We also thank the Secretary-General for the quality of the statement that he made as we began our consideration of this item. It was a strong and detailed statement. It encouraged us, because the Secretary-General confirmed that Africa and its special needs are the top priority for him. Africa is pleased to find in him an advocate who is convincing because he is convinced.

These two reports clearly show the scope and diversity of the activities carried out by African countries and the international community to implement NEPAD, as well as recommendations aimed at making Africa a conflict-free zone of peace. While efforts on all sides have made commendable progress, the situation in Africa remains worrisome. The results achieved to date remain far from commonly accepted goals and objectives. In a moving plea, the Permanent Representative of Benin, His Excellency Mr. Jean-Marie Ehouzou, speaking in his capacity as Chairman of the Group of African States, described the situation much more effectively than I could. I thank him for his persuasive power and his eloquence in the service of Africa.

In any case, the task before us is immense. So too is the resolve that we must demonstrate if we really want to move decisively towards the results that we hope to achieve. From that perspective, the United Nations has an essential role to play, as the Secretary-General recalled here yesterday in his introductory statement (see A/62/PV.27). The peoples of the United Nations who are in Africa expect the Organization to play a role within the international community that encourages, mobilizes and coordinates contributions and initiatives to supplement the efforts of African countries.

The Secretary-General has understood that well. Since he assumed his duties, he has shown that he is

deeply involved in seeking solutions to African issues. In his report, he wrote:

> "Appropriate and adequate institutional arrangements within the United Nations will hold the key to the success of our efforts in support of Africa. I intend to revamp these efforts by establishing greater institutional coherence among the main Secretariat entities dealing with issues that concern Africa, as well as establishing stronger system-wide organizational arrangements to ensure full implementation of activities in favour of Africa. As part of this approach I will seek to formulate strategic actions for the United Nations and the international community in support of achieving sustainable development in a conflict-free Africa." (*A/62/204, para. 79*)

This brings me back to the need to strengthen the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Africa. As we said on 9 October from this rostrum, that Office, as an operational structure, has three roles. It must mobilize public opinion and resources, coordinate the various initiatives within the United Nations system for implementing NEPAD, and follow up actively on the various contributions made by the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, the China-Africa Forum, the Group of 8, the European Union and, more recently, India, the Republic of Korea and Brazil towards a more innovative North-South or South-South partnership for the development of Africa.

The Office could be strengthened in the following manner, although this is not an exhaustive list of possible measures. The first would be preserving the integrity and high level of the Office, allowing it to operate in an integrated manner and at an appropriate level of representation and dialogue with its various partners as it plays the strategic triple role I referred to earlier.

The second measure would be filling all the vacancies in the Office, and particularly the post of Special Adviser. If that post remains vacant, it will clearly weaken the Office's management and leadership and hinder the implementation of programmes. In their reports to this session, the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions stress that point clearly.

The third measure would be enhancing the Office's capacity to play its triple role. In that connection, we believe that it would be wise to create additional posts and operational resources, as the Secretary-General proposes, in other priority areas, such as disarmament, the maintenance of peace, human rights and, in the near future, political affairs. That capacity is all the more necessary in that the specific needs of Africa, as identified by the heads of State and Government at the 2000 Millennium Summit and the 2005 World Summit, must be duly planned, programmed, followed up and assessed in a strategic and concrete manner in the annual or multi-year work plans of the United Nations system. Moreover, the various processes launched by Africa's partners must also be followed up and exploited methodically.

The fourth and last measure is clarifying the role of the Office of the Special Adviser vis-à-vis other Secretariat entities. Such clarification would avoid any potential duplication and other confusion. If properly organized, the Office would work in synergy with other entities of the system, but would also have a unique central role that would highlight both its added value and its own distinct nature.

My delegation makes these proposals because we should like our current debate to lead to conclusions that would enable the Secretary-General to propose a set of measures to strengthen the programmes, administrative structure and budget that support the United Nations work for enhanced development in Africa. Indeed, that is what the General Assembly has called for tirelessly in the Second, Third and Fifth Committees and other subsidiary bodies.

It is seven years to the deadline of 2015. At that point, we will assess how far peoples have travelled towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The reports before us, unfortunately, show that Africa is unlikely to meet those goals if its development partners do not live up to all of their commitments within the agreed time frame.

Yesterday, the General Assembly began the debate, ending today, on the reports on Africa's development. In our view, the backdrop to this debate is very meaningful because our meeting is taking place shortly after two major events. The first was the commemoration by men of good will throughout the world of the fortieth anniversary of Pope Paul VI's encyclical *Populorum Progressio*. That prophetic

encyclical on the progress of peoples is more relevant today than ever. It offered a new approach to the expectations of the poorest peoples and countries among us. Today, more than ever before, development is indeed the new name of peace. If we seek peace, we should not prepare for war; we should fight poverty. If we want peace, we should work for respect for all human rights, including the right to development and the right to food.

The backdrop to the debate ending today is also symbolic because our deliberations are taking place shortly after 17 October, when we marked a day set aside to reject poverty throughout the world. As members know, 17 October was established by the General Assembly as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. On that occasion, Pope Benedict XVI called upon men and women to act in three key areas: first, to work even harder to eliminate the causes of poverty and its tragic consequences; secondly, to call on their sense of dignity to find grounds for rejecting what is unacceptable and to find the strength to believe in a better future and the joy of helping one another; and thirdly, to fight side by side, in a generous spirit, against poverty.

Let us heed that appeal as we conclude our debate on development and peace in Africa. The end of this debate must mean the beginning of an effective and complete implementation of our commitments. The situation in Africa calls for greater creativity in finding solutions, greater resolve in the actions to be undertaken and greater generosity in implementing those actions. Africa is the continent of the future, and when Africa awakens, it will remember its good Samaritans.

The Acting President: I now call on the observer of the Observer State of the Holy See.

Monsignor Auza (Holy See): Resolutions 61/229 and 61/230 and the reports of the Secretary-General highlight many positive signs of the commitment of the peoples and Governments of Africa to act as protagonists in the promotion of peace and of their own economic and social development. They also express the international community's responsibilities towards Africa.

Figures showing accelerated economic growth in Africa as a whole during the past years are particularly encouraging. That was best exemplified by last year's growth rate, which was the highest in the last 30 years. It is therefore with pleasure that my delegation salutes the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in its seventh year of existence. This Africa-owned and Africa-led vision and strategic framework for Africa's renewal has contributed in no small measure to this growth. Moreover, although designed to address the challenges facing the continent through closer cooperation among the African countries, NEPAD also opens and prepares Africa for greater international cooperation. Indeed, one of its primary objectives is to halt the marginalization of Africa in the globalization process and enhance its full and beneficial integration into the global economy. Africa has started to reap the fruit of this wise decision, as seen in the aforementioned highest growth rate, which was in part due to favourable international economic conditions.

Nevertheless, these positive signs stand in stark contrast with situations of conflict and the reality of extreme forms of poverty, which are difficult to uproot. Africa still lags behind most other regions of the world. Thus the international community's support remains a decisive factor in assisting Africa in responding to daunting challenges and in consolidating recent gains.

In the area of peace and security, the Holy See wishes to renew its support for a global approach to the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts in Africa. Efforts in those areas should be guided by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, assisted by the Panel of the Wise and the African standby force. Initiatives such as the continental early warning system and the regional conflict warning systems deserve the international community's generous support, so that the continent's increasing assumption of its share of responsibility in conflict prevention, peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding may be further consolidated.

In the socio-economic field, there is no need to look far and wide for ways and means to support Africa: in resolution 61/229, paragraphs 19 to 25, several are enumerated. To address the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development, Africa would need a comprehensive solution to the unsustainable debt burdens of some countries, fairer access to world markets through equitable integration into the international trading system, the timely disbursement by the developed countries of the agreed 0.7 per cent of gross national product as official development assistance, better harmonization between

international support and NEPAD priorities, greater and long-term investments in Africa's public and private sector, transfer of technology and better educational and health systems, to cite a few.

Africa's integration into the international trading system should help it build its capacity to compete without reducing its ability to safeguard its citizens from the undesirable consequences of structural adjustments and trade liberalization. The international community is called upon to assist African countries in developing policies that promote a culture of solidarity, so that their economic development may go hand in hand with integral human development. On the other hand, good governance and institution-building efforts, the correct use of aid and anti-corruption measures are primary responsibilities of the recipient countries and are essential if international aid is to bear fruit.

At the end of the day, any new trade development — particularly the new North-South regional agreements — must improve on what is already in place and must avoid imposing conditions to the detriment of Africans. One sector that is vital to Africa's capacity to both ensure its food security and compete in the global economy is agriculture, as seen in the sensitive issue of agricultural subsidies in developed countries. An equitable solution to the imbalances in international agricultural trade is urgently needed, as is an approach to the subsidies on exports from developed countries that is consistent with and satisfactory for African agriculture.

Education must be at the heart of NEPAD objectives and priorities, not only as a goal in itself but also as a means in achieving the other objectives. Strategic partnerships in education and skills formation between institutions in Africa and in the developed world will no doubt accelerate progress in all sectors.

Those partnerships should extend to the movement of skilled labour. Africa, in fact, is suffering from brain drain, as much of its educated, talented and skilled human capital — especially in the health sector — leave the continent for better economic opportunities in rich countries. There is real risk, therefore, that the hard-earned investments in African higher education will yield fewer and fewer returns to Africa, even while it benefits countries where African skilled labour is being employed.

Persistent wars in Africa and their deleterious effects in terms of the displaced and refugees and of the heinous crimes of the recruitment of child soldiers and violence against women, should remind us that peace and collective security are inseparable from human development.

The Acting President: In accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/2 of 19 October 1994, I now call on the observer for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Ms. Johnson (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies): I am pleased to be able to speak here today on matters of particular relevance to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

The largest humanitarian needs resulting from poverty, health crises and disasters are in Africa, and it is with grave concern that we remind ourselves today, at the mid-point to 2015, that most African countries are not on track to meet most, if not all, of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). People are dying of AIDS and related diseases, leaving behind destitute families and children, many also HIV-positive. Droughts, floods, locusts and conflicts cause or exacerbate food insecurity and vulnerability to disease. Having witnessed the recent and unprecedented flooding that affected one million people across 20 African countries over the past several months, we are all the more concerned about rising humanitarian needs and the long-term toll they take on years of development gains.

It is unacceptable that today, 19 October, 3,000 children will die of malaria. It is unacceptable that 14 African children will die during the few minutes it will take for me to make this statement here in the General Assembly. It is all the more unacceptable given that those deaths can be prevented through personal protection, mosquito control and early treatment. Today, malaria threatens 40 per cent of the world's population, and we expect that figure to increase as climate and environmental changes take it into new territories.

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) aims to eradicate poverty and place African countries on a path of sustainable growth and development, including meeting the Millennium Development Goals in health and education. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies endorses those priorities and also works towards them. Our programmes in Africa

account for 40 per cent of our funding appeal in 2006 and 2007.

The positive news is that, by working in strong global and local partnerships and by building the local capacities of national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, we see progress being made in many African countries by Africans themselves. Indeed, despite the daunting humanitarian needs, there is progress in Africa, and we have registered many achievements. Today, I will highlight simply one.

The report recently issued by the United Nations Children's Fund on malaria and children shows that a rapid improvement in the supply and distribution of mosquito nets between 2004 and 2006 has resulted in a tripling of coverage ratios in 16 countries. Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have contributed to those results as partners of the Roll Back Malaria initiative. Our community-based volunteers, who walk the last mile and visit the last house on the road, have helped turn planned campaigns into real successes. In 2006, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies participated in 17 malaria campaigns in 14 countries, helping to distribute some 27 million mosquito nets. By the end of this year, we anticipate having completed 13 new campaigns and delivered 28 million nets. Preparations are currently under way in Madagascar, Mali, Gabon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Congo Brazzaville and Gambia. In 2008, we plan to continue at that pace and anticipate needing some 21 million more nets.

We believe that NEPAD is founded on two key principles that are necessary to achieving results in Africa. The first is anchoring the development of Africa in its own resources and in the resourcefulness of its people. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies recognizes that the lack of human resources for health is a cause of major health delivery gaps, particularly in rural areas of sub-Saharan African countries. We see that as an important impediment to achieving the MDGs and as an area where we can contribute.

As auxiliaries to their public authorities, Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies can help improve the quality and size of the health workforce in their countries, while recognizing the Government's responsibility in that area. That is why the IFRC, in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Southern Africa HIV/AIDS Information Dissemination Service, has developed a generic training package on HIV/AIDS, which can be used to train community volunteers in treatment literacy, mobilization, preparedness and adherence.

The key to success is partnership. As auxiliaries to their public authorities, national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are ideally placed to help accomplish the humanitarian goals of their Governments at all levels. As community-based organizations, they can help link development at the national level to the efforts at the local level of everyday people working to improve their lives. We believe that for partnerships to be real, equitable and transparent, they need to respond to the aspirations and expectations of vulnerable people and communities.

National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies welcome partnerships with organizations working towards similar goals. We believe that for partnerships to be effective, they need to be built on solid organizational capacity, on complementary skills, and on the maximization of resources. The memorandum of understanding signed between the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the WHO's Regional Office for Africa in May of this year is one example of such a partnership and is a milestone that should help better support the efforts of African Governments in scaling up comprehensive HIV interventions at the community level.

I have outlined today how health interventions, institutional and human capacity-building, and partnerships at national and local levels can spur development in Africa. Those issues will be addressed at the upcoming International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent which, under the theme "Together for humanity", will draw attention to the need for collective and collaborative action and partnerships between States, the Red Cross and Red Crescent global network, and other humanitarian actors, such as the United Nations and non-governmental organizations. The International Conference will also examine the unique value and specific nature of the role of national societies as auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field.

Let me close by highlighting two areas in which we think Governments can act differently and more effectively to enable our work and shared goals.

First, they can better partner with national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. We call on donor and national Governments to meet the intentions stated in the Rabat Declaration on human development and on strengthening health systems and human resources for health, in cooperation with national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Secondly, there is the question of funding and resource mobilization. As highlighted in the many reports that fed into our discussions yesterday and today, funding remains inadequate to effectively tackle the challenges of malaria, HIV and development in Africa. We call on Governments to mobilize resources and funding to that end and to apply the principles and good practice of humanitarian donorship in the efficient delivery of that assistance.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and our 53 national societies in Africa know too well the daily difficulties and tragedies of poor families and communities in Africa. But we also know — because our national societies are grounded in that reality — the tremendous strength and capacity that are in those same families and those same communities. We are convinced that, working in global and local partnerships, we can achieve our goals, and we pledge to do our part to do just that.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker in the debate on these items. The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda items 64 and 47.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.

United Nations A/62/PV.30

General Assembly

Sixty-second session

Official Records

30th plenary meeting
Monday, 22 October 2007, 3.00 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Kerim ..... (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Jallow (Gambia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 7 (*continued*)

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

Second report of the General Committee (A/61/250/Add.1)

The Acting President: In paragraph 1 of its report (A/62/250/Add.1), the General Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item entitled "Question of the Comorian island of Mayotte" be deferred to the sixty-third session of General Assembly and that it be included in the provisional agenda of that session.

May I take it that the Assembly approves the recommendation?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: In paragraph 2 (a) of the same report, the General Committee recommends to the General Assembly that an additional item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad" be included in the agenda of the current session under heading I, "Organizational, administrative and other matters".

May I take it that the General Assembly decides to include this item in the agenda of the current session under heading I?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: In paragraph 2 (b), the General Committee further recommends that the item be allocated to the Fifth Committee.

May I take it that the General Assembly decides to allocate this item to the Fifth Committee?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: I should like to inform members that the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad" becomes item 164 on the agenda of the current session.

In paragraph 3 (a) of the report, the General Committee recommends to the General Assembly that an additional item entitled "Observer status for the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia" be included in the agenda of the current session under heading I, "Organizational, administrative and other matters".

May I take it that the General Assembly decides to include this item in the agenda of the current session under heading I?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: In paragraph 3 (b), the General Committee further recommends that the item be allocated to the Sixth Committee.

May I take it that the General Assembly decides to allocate this item to the Sixth Committee?

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07-55640 (E)

It was so decided.

The Acting President: I should like to inform members that the item entitled "Observer status for the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia" becomes item 165 on the agenda of the current session.

In paragraph 4 (a) of the report, the General Committee recommends to the General Assembly that an additional item entitled "Observer status for the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf" be included in the agenda of the current session under heading I, "Organizational, administrative and other matters".

May I take it that the General Assembly decides to include this item in the agenda of the current session under heading I?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: In paragraph 4 (b), the General Committee further recommends that the item be allocated to the Sixth Committee.

May I take it that the General Assembly decides to allocate this item to the Sixth Committee?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: I should like to inform members that the item entitled "Observer status for the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf" becomes item 166 on the agenda of the current session.

In paragraph 5 (a) of the report, the General Committee recommends to the General Assembly that an additional item entitled "Peace, security and reunification on the Korean peninsula" be included in the agenda of the current session under heading A, "Maintenance of international peace and security".

May I take it that the General Assembly decides to include this item in the agenda of the current session under heading A?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: In paragraph 5 (b), the General Committee further recommends that the item be considered directly in plenary meeting.

May I take it that the General Assembly decides to consider this item directly in plenary meeting?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: I should like to inform members that the item entitled "Peace, security and reunification on the Korean peninsula" becomes item 167 on the agenda of the current session.

The General Assembly has thus concluded the consideration of the second report of the General Committee.

The meeting rose at 3:15 p.m.

United Nations A/62/PV.31

General Assembly
Sixty-second session

Official Records

31st plenary meeting
Tuesday, 23 October 2007, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Kerim ..... (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Agenda item 53 (*continued*)

Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development

(b) High-level dialogue for the implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development

Reports of the Secretary-General (A/62/190 and A/62/217)

Note by the Secretary-General (A/62/271)

Summary by the President of the Economic and Social Council of the special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (New York, 16 April 2007) (A/62/76 and A/62/76/Corr.1)

The President: The General Assembly will begin the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, convened in accordance with resolution 61/191 of 20 December 2006. The overall theme of the High-level Dialogue is "The Monterrey Consensus: status of implementation and tasks ahead". The High-level Dialogue will consist of plenary and informal meetings as well as six interactive multi-stakeholder round tables. A detailed programme was distributed to delegations this morning.

I would like to sincerely welcome all delegations to the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development. The Dialogue will begin the intergovernmental follow-up to review the implementation of the 2002 Monterrey Conference and to assess the challenges ahead. Over the next couple of days we shall hold a series of plenary meetings and six multi-stakeholder round tables on the major thematic areas of the Monterrey Consensus. I would encourage all participants to engage in a frank, inclusive and open exchange of views with all stakeholders. By doing so, we can make a substantive contribution to the preparation of the Follow-up Conference in Doha.

In that regard, I would like to commend the important contributions made at yesterday's hearings by civil society and non-governmental organizations, in particular on innovative sources of development finance and trade. The overall message from the hearings was clear: we have reached a critical juncture in the financing for development agenda. Despite the promises made, progress has been slower than expected. While there have been some successes, many of the development finance objectives set in 2002 have not yet been met.

At Monterrey, developing countries acknowledged primary responsibility for their own development. They committed themselves to create sound fiscal, economic and social policies to that end. In return, donors agreed to support them through more and better aid, debt relief and fairer trade and to give them a more equal voice in the international system. The Consensus embodies the mutual responsibilities of developed and developing

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07-55827 (E)

countries. I would like to briefly outline progress achieved in each of the six areas.

In the area of domestic resource mobilization, macroeconomic and fiscal management has improved in most developing countries, creating higher savings and investment. However, despite increased social expenditures, poverty is still on the rise, especially in Africa.

With regard to private capital flows, a dozen fast-growing, resource-rich countries account for some 70 per cent of the increase in private capital flows to developing countries. More needs to be done to encourage investment in low-income countries.

In the area of international trade, major challenges remain in realizing the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations. While international trade has increased, new forms of protectionism have arisen. All countries involved in the Doha Trade Round should aim to forge an open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system.

We should congratulate the around two thirds of donor countries which met 2006 targets to increase official development assistance (ODA) levels that they set in Monterrey. However, in 2006 development aid from countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development fell by 5 per cent. Aid to sub-Saharan Africa, excluding debt relief, remained static. Following current trends, ODA for the period 2006-2010 will fall short of the targets. Improving aid effectiveness and exploring innovative sources of development finance remain priorities.

The Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative has freed up essential resources for investment in public services. However, putting all low-income countries on the path to debt sustainability and poverty reduction remains a major challenge.

Finally, global governance and the international financial architecture need to be more responsive to the profound changes in the global economy, in particular with regard to global imbalances and market transparency. Increasing the voice and participation of developing countries remains a priority on which the legitimacy and credibility of some institutions now depends.

Since its adoption in 2002, the Monterrey Consensus has remained at the heart of the United Nations development debate. In 2005, it was reaffirmed by leaders at the World Summit. That same year at Gleneagles, Group of Eight (G-8) leaders agreed to make progress on trade and to provide $50 billion extra in aid, with $25 billion for Africa, by 2010. They set new targets for access for all to AIDS treatment, free basic education and health care. Again in Heiligendamm in 2007, G-8 leaders recommitted to increased development assistance and announced an additional $60 billion to fight AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

If implemented, existing commitments to finance development are enough to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), even in Africa. But each side of the partnership must deliver. That is the spirit of the Monterrey Consensus. As developing countries adopt comprehensive national strategies, donors must deliver on commitments to provide additional assistance to enable them to succeed. Unchecked, bad governance and corruption will undermine efforts to provide long-term, predictable finance. However, lack of progress should not be an excuse for additional conditionality or for delaying increases in ODA.

Developing countries need to develop credible long-term investment plans, strengthen good governance and continue to fight corruption to encourage sustainable economic growth and an attractive environment for business. To maintain the credibility of their commitments, donors should accelerate their plans to scale up assistance and issue country-by-country timelines on how will increase aid, so that partner Governments can prepare supporting macroeconomic frameworks.

Time is running out to make the needed practical investments. The focus must now be squarely on implementation. Promises must be urgently translated into practical plans with systematic follow-through by all parties. Developing countries need to know when additional new resources will arrive so that they can begin to plan.

The adoption of the historic Consensus on financing for development laid the foundation for a global partnership for the international community to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. It is in that context that the review of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus will take place in Doha next year. Success in Doha will very much depend on the consensus we reach during the consultation process at the sixty-second session of the General Assembly.

We can lay the political ground over the next couple of days. We need to judge the progress made so far and assess future challenges, including supporting developing countries to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change. We may face huge challenges, but we should take hope from the progress that has been made so far.

In the past 40 years, life expectancy in the developing world increased by one quarter. In the past 30 years, illiteracy has fallen by half.

In the past 20 years, 400 million people have been lifted out of absolute poverty. Smallpox has been eradicated, and soon maybe polio will too. The debt of over 20 countries, totalling over $81 billion, has been fully cancelled, helping some to provide free health care and build new classrooms. The $4 billion International Finance Facility for Immunization has been established to help save the lives of an additional 5 million children over the next decade.

At the first thematic debate of the General Assembly on partnerships towards achieving the MDGs, held in November 2006, the Islamic Development Bank announced $10 billion of new financing for the Millennium Development Goals. In 2007, the United Arab Emirates announced a $10 billion fund to improve access to and the quality of education in the Muslim world. And recently, an international health partnership among donors, developing countries and United Nations entities has been established.

Some African countries are demonstrating that progress towards the MDGs is possible when strong government leadership and good policies are combined with adequate financial and technical support from the international community. Progress is obviously possible. Above all, we must demonstrate political will. Millions of lives hang in the balance.

Along with the framework of the MDGs, the Monterrey Consensus has helped to strengthen our shared sense of purpose and to harness and combine the energies of the United Nations, other institutions, faith groups, non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector. If this — the greatest anti-poverty partnership in history — is insufficient to break away from business as usual, many developing countries and campaigners around the world will be left without hope. Global trust will be irredeemably undermined.

In order to avoid that, establish greater trust and renew confidence in the multilateral system, it is critical that we all live up to our promises and commitments. In doing so, we need to move beyond the simplistic division of the world into North and South, which reflects the past more than today's world. We live in a far more complex and integrated global age, with new emerging economic powers and donors as well as private philanthropy in all regions of the world.

It is incumbent upon leaders from all of those groups and stakeholders to demonstrate leadership and concerted action. Otherwise, by 2015, there will be more people struggling in poverty. Millions of people will not realize the basic promises of the Millennium Development Goals in their lives.

Finally, I wish to thank all the Member States represented here, particularly those countries that are represented at a high level in this important meeting. I had hoped and wished that the relevant international institutions would be represented at the highest level, given the high importance attached to this issue of financing for development.

I now give the floor to the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

The Secretary-General: I am pleased to join the President of the General Assembly in welcoming all participants to this High-level Dialogue.

The International Conference on Financing for Development, held five years ago in Monterrey, marked a turning point in our quest for economic and social progress. At the Conference, developed and developing countries alike came together under United Nations auspices to forge a bold new partnership for development, and they made clear their determination to end poverty once and for all.

In the Monterrey Consensus, developing countries took primary responsibility for their development and for mobilizing domestic resources. Developed countries, in turn, agreed to provide assistance and promote an enabling international environment for development.

The Consensus was a landmark agreement. It reiterated that poor and economically distressed people should be welcomed as partners in the development process. It affirmed the importance of substantially increased and predictable official development

assistance (ODA) to achieve development objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals.

Just past the midpoint in the global effort to achieve the Goals by 2015, our scoreboard is uneven. Some regions — particularly sub-Saharan Africa — are clearly not on track. That should worry every single one of us. After all, reaching the Goals is not only vital to building better, healthier and more decent lives for millions of people around the world; it is also essential to global peace and security.

Now more than ever, achieving the Millennium Development Goals — and, indeed, all the internationally agreed development targets — depends fundamentally on the substance, vitality and credibility of our global partnership. We know we can reach the goals, but only if we share responsibility and honour our commitments.

So far, progress on the Monterrey Consensus has also been mixed. Many developing nations, including many lower- and middle-income countries, have experienced stronger economic growth. After 2002, levels of official development assistance, including new commitments, rose, only to fall off since last year. More importantly, the sustained increases required to meet targets agreed to decades ago and reiterated in 2002 and 2005, have not materialized. Closing this funding gap is essential if we are to alleviate extreme poverty, fight disease and achieve the other development targets. The challenge is even greater now, with the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change while striving to reduce the huge and growing economic divergences.

This can only happen when donors meet their ODA commitment targets and channel more resources through national budgets. At the same time, more effort is required to improve aid effectiveness. The additional financing needs for climate change must also be addressed.

Significant steps have been taken on debt relief. But, here too, much more is needed. Putting all low-income countries on a sustainable path of debt repayment must be a priority, and immediate action is needed to increase the voice and participation of developing countries in international decision-making, particularly in the international financial institutions. This is essential for the legitimacy, credibility and, ultimately, effectiveness of these institutions.

At the national level, implementation poses its own challenges. In many cases, prudent macroeconomic management and increased social spending have not generated the results required to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. National development strategies need to give priority to macroeconomic and other policies that support sustained economic growth and decent employment.

Net international capital flows have actually flowed away from most developing countries over the past decades. Much more must be done to increase stable capital flows to low-income countries and to enhance their development impact.

We also need more inclusive multilateral coordination of macroeconomic policies. This is particularly urgent in the face of the large global imbalances, volatile international capital flows and threats to sustainable development posed by financial turmoil.

Significant challenges remain in realizing the development dimension of the Doha trade negotiations. Concluding the talks quickly, with meaningful and equitable development implications, should be the principal focus of the negotiators. Aid for trade should be made operational.

The Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, to be held in Doha next year, offers a golden opportunity for all stakeholders to consolidate the gains made and to achieve new breakthroughs. It is an opportunity to strengthen the solidarity and partnership between rich and poor countries that was created five years ago in Monterrey.

Let us begin here, at this High-level Dialogue, to rekindle that Monterrey spirit. Let us renew our commitment to free our fellow human beings from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of poverty and inequality. A strong and sustained effort now can mean the difference between the success and failure of our collective endeavour to create a better, more peaceful and more prosperous world for all.

I urge the international community to do its utmost to fulfil the commitments made at Monterrey, so that all countries and all people, especially the poorest, can benefit. And I hope to see fresh ideas on specific actions that could be taken in Doha to deliver

fully on the global partnership for development. I look forward to examining appropriate ways to strengthen the implementation of this process.

I wish participants every success in their deliberations.

The President: I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Dalius Čekuolis, President of the Economic and Social Council.

Mr. Čekuolis (President of the Economic and Social Council): It is indeed a pleasure and an honour for me to participate in the third High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development. As the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General have just emphasized, we are meeting at an important juncture. We have passed the midpoint for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and we are about to start preparing for a major review conference on financing for development, to be held in the second half of 2008 in Doha. This Dialogue will be an important occasion to fully utilize the convening power of the United Nations and the capacities of all its partners to advance the United Nations development agenda.

I am pleased to say that the Economic and Social Council has come a long way in the past two years in re-energizing its functions and rejuvenating its mission of promoting social and economic development. There are now three major Council forums that are instrumental for the Monterrey follow-up process: the Council's annual spring meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; the Annual Ministerial Review; and the Development Cooperation Forum.

The spring meeting has served as an important reminder that our efforts must be underpinned by a continued commitment by all to a global partnership for development. In the Monterrey Consensus, heads of State or Government encouraged the United Nations and major institutional stakeholders to focus the spring meeting on issues of coherence, coordination and cooperation. The Council also highlighted the importance of the meeting in its latest resolution on financing for development (Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/30), in which it calls for measures to enhance its impact in the follow-up process. Following the suggestions of the Council — such as focusing the meeting on specific issues and finalizing the preparations well in advance — will help to ensure that next year's event will be an important stepping stone on the road to Doha.

At the 2005 World Summit, world leaders mandated the Economic and Social Council to strengthen its role in coordinating the implementation of the United Nations development agenda by convening an Annual Ministerial Review and a biennial Development Cooperation Forum.

The Annual Ministerial Review enhances the role of the Council as a central body for United Nations system-wide coordination in the economic, social and related fields. Member States welcomed the first Review as an important forum for assessing the progress made in implementing the internationally agreed development goals, which have emerged from United Nations conferences and summits held since the 1990s at the global, regional and national levels. It was particularly encouraging and illuminating to listen to the national voluntary presentations of several Member States on their progress in implementing national development strategies in order to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and the MDGs by 2015. Future Annual Ministerial Reviews should make recommendations on concrete steps to overcome the obstacles and challenges in realizing those goals.

The official launch of the Development Cooperation Forum brought together a wide array of development partners to engage in a dialogue on strengthening international development cooperation. It was a decisive step forward in the implementation of the global partnership for development and proof of the commitment of Governments to strengthen the coherence and effectiveness of international development cooperation. It also served as an important reminder that all stakeholders — Governments, United Nations system organizations, civil society, parliaments, the private sector and academia — have to be accountable to one another.

I am convinced that these two new key functions of the Economic and Social Council, together with the Council's annual spring meeting, will provide an important platform for fostering dialogue and

consensus on financing for development among a wide range of stakeholders.

The Monterrey Consensus outlined the comprehensive national and international policy actions required to achieve the internationally agreed development goals. We will be able to follow through with them only if we work together and make full use of all existing forums and mechanisms.

I am confident that I speak for all countries members of the Economic and Social Council when I promise that, for our part, we will do all in our power to advance the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and to ensure the success of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Doha, Qatar, in the second half of 2008.

The President: I should now like to turn to some organizational matters pertaining to the conduct of these meetings. As stated in my letter of 19 October 2007 to Member States concerning the list of speakers, I would like to propose that the list of speakers be closed at 1 p.m. May I take it that the Assembly agrees to that proposal?

It was so decided.

The President: With respect to the length of statements, as indicated in the note by the Secretary-General (A/62/271), speakers are encouraged to limit their statements to five minutes, on the understanding that this will not preclude the distribution of more extensive texts. In view of the large number of delegations already inscribed on the list of speakers — there are some 100 speakers so far — I appeal to speakers to cooperate in that respect.

To assist speakers in managing their time, a light system has been installed at the speaker's rostrum, which functions as follows: a green light will be activated at the start of the speaker's statement, an orange light will be activated 30 seconds before the end of the five minutes, and a red light will be activated when the five minutes have elapsed.

Members will recall that, in the note of the Secretary-General, it was noted that the Assembly would also hear statements by the President of the World Bank, the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, the Director-General of the World Trade Organization, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme. I would like to inform members that these organizations will now be represented by the following persons: the Vice-President of the World Bank, the Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, the Deputy Director-General of the World Trade Organization, the Special Representative of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at the United Nations Headquarters, and the Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme.

If there is no objection, and without setting a precedent, may I take it that the General Assembly agrees to hear statements by these representatives?

It was so decided.

I now give the floor to Mr. Danny Leipziger, Vice-President and Head of Network, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management of the World Bank.

Mr. Leipziger (World Bank): It is an honour and a privilege to be here and have the opportunity to speak to the Assembly today. Mr. Zoellick, the President of the World Bank, asked me to convey to the Assembly his strong commitment to the development agenda associated with the Monterrey Consensus. At his inaugural annual meetings speech yesterday, in Washington, he laid out an ambitious World Bank Group agenda based on the concept of an inclusive and sustainable globalization that reaches all, including women, who find themselves in poverty.

In 2002, the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, laid out a mutual accountability framework, which included actions for donors and partner countries anchored in the country-based development model.

Five years later, and entering the final stage of the Millennium Development Goals cycle, I commend the United Nations for its ongoing efforts to take stock on where we stand in this important partnership. I would like to focus my comments on three key areas in which the Bank has been involved: debt relief; aid scaling-up around the country-based model; and trade reform.

Concerning debt relief, donors have in large part delivered on their commitments. Most multilateral

financial institutions and others have provided debt relief in line with their commitments under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative. As a result, 32 countries are benefiting from relief totalling over $90 billion in 2006 terms, with the International Development Association (IDA), our soft-loan window, being the single largest provider.

One should note, however, that debt sustainability is not guaranteed by forgiving past debt. It requires not only careful borrowing in the future, but also export diversification and access, growth and the ability to weather economic shocks. High indebtedness is more likely to have been a symptom of weak policies, institutions and governance than a cause of low growth. That is why we have been working closely with the International Monetary Fund on the Debt Sustainability Framework in Low-Income Countries. We asked that there be harmonization among creditors and all donors in terms of responsible lending and responsible borrowing.

It is even more important to strengthen borrowers' capacity to manage their own debt, generate financing needed for development and avoid experiencing repayment difficulties. In that context, we are engaged in the diagnosis of the weaknesses of systems and building debt management strategies.

Turning to the efforts of developing countries in managing aid flows, it is worth noting that developing countries have achieved important progress in building national strategies and improving policy environments leading to higher growth. They have improved the quality of their poverty reduction strategies and their linkages to national processes. They have strengthened their institutional frameworks for public financial sector management, public administration and governance. The quality of their macro and growth policies has also improved, as the recent higher growth rates underscore. Those significant improvements have opened up important opportunities for scaling up a wide range of countries and fragile States.

However, donor countries remain far short in their commitments to improve the quality and quantity of aid. Official development assistance increased, but the majority of the increase since 2004 was driven by debt relief. Actually, official development assistance from Development Assistance Committee countries declined by 5.3 per cent in real terms in 2006, and we expect, unfortunately, a further decline in 2007.

Results on efforts to improve the quality of aid are also mixed.

Central to the Monterrey Consensus was the link between country performance and aid. While, on average, aid flows to better performing countries have increased since 2000, this trend is far from uniform, and some of the better performers have actually seen a decline in aid.

In sum, on the aid front, there are significant opportunities for scaling up, and donors need to demonstrate a clear resolve to accelerate delivery on their commitments. A strong fifteenth replenishment of the IDA — IDA15 — will be important in this direction, and that is why the World Bank Group has decided to lead the way by seeking to contribute $3.5 billion to IDA15 out of its own resources.

Allow me to now turn to the global trade system, my third theme. The global trade system needs to be development-friendly. On this front, bringing the Doha Round to a successful conclusion remains the key goal. We believe that this is possible. There is a negotiating package on the table that would bring significant benefits to all involved, but unless key players show flexibility in adjusting their demands, this goal will not be achieved in the near future. Industrialized countries have a particular responsibility in leading the way in this process, and the costs of failure should not be underestimated.

Regardless of the outcome of the Doha negotiations, substantial increases in what is called "aid for trade" to help poor countries to harness global markets for growth and poverty reduction should remain a high priority.

I would like to conclude by identifying three additional areas for action that can make a difference in promoting the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus.

First, we need to work together to identify innovative sources of development finance, drawing more on the private sector and other forms of development assistance. There is much scope for collaboration with and learning from emerging donors, private foundations and others.

Secondly, we will need to ramp up support for Poverty Reduction Strategy implementation and build strong resources and results frameworks around which donors can align to support viable country-led growth strategies. Efforts such as the Results and Resources Partnerships can help in this effort.

Thirdly, we need to strengthen the development focus around global and regional public goods to ensure that increased finance is integrated into national growth and development strategies, leading to poverty reduction and a strong development impact. In that context, allow me to echo the words of the Secretary-General and say that time is a-wasting and further action is needed.

I would like to confirm once again the commitment of the World Bank to the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus.

The President: I now give the floor to Mr. Murilo Portugal, Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund.

Mr. Portugal (International Monetary Fund): It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to address this meeting on this most important topic of financing for development. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is a committed partner in the international community's efforts help developing countries reduce poverty and reach the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We give high priority to effective collaboration with the donor community, and gatherings like this are essential to fostering such collaboration.

I would like to share our assessment of recent events in financing for development with the Assembly. I will also speak about how the IMF is improving its support to developing countries.

Allow me to begin by touching on the economic outlook for the developing world. Many developing countries have seen remarkable improvements in macroeconomic performance in the past few years. The positive growth trends in the developing world are broad-based, affecting all major regions. Sub-Saharan Africa, in particular, is experiencing its strongest growth and lowest inflation in over 30 years. Growth there should reach more than 6 per cent this year. In developing Asia, growth is expected to reach almost 10 per cent this year.

Developing countries have weathered the recent financial turmoil very well. This has been a phenomenon mainly of industrial countries. Some emerging market economies that are more integrated within financial markets or have high external vulnerabilities have felt some ripple effects of that turbulence, but the impacts have been much more muted than in previous episodes of financial turbulence.

Overall, the outlook for the developing world is favourable, although the risks are clearly on the down side. Our positive view is largely driven by the fact that developing countries are now in a better position than they were a decade ago, having reaped the benefits of the economic reforms and improved macroeconomic policies that they are pursuing. Governments have strengthened their public financial management and tax administrations; trade regimes are more open; and progress is being made to improve the investment climate. The need to fight weak governance and corruption is receiving more attention than ever before. Many developing countries are pursuing sustainable macroeconomic policies. The double- and even triple-digit inflation rates that we saw in the 1980s and 1990s seem well behind us, with average inflation rates down by almost one half since 1999 to an average of five-and-a-half per cent last year. In addition, many countries have been able to build considerable foreign exchange reserves and are better prepared to weather unexpected shocks.

There is also reason for some optimism about the impact of these developments on poverty reduction. The 2007 Global Monitoring Report, a joint product that we have with the World Bank, shows progress in reducing poverty across all regions. South and East Asia and Latin America seem to be on track to meet the income Millennium Development Goal by 2015, while emerging Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa have largely eliminated extreme poverty. But the picture is different in sub-Saharan Africa where, regrettably, only a handful of countries are positioned to meet the income poverty goal, despite the considerable progress that they have also made. Of course, these average numbers can conceal differences in performance and vulnerabilities across countries, so it is important that the international community remains vigilant in every region.

While it is fair to say that many developing countries have improved their macroeconomic and social policies, thus living up to their side of the understandings reached at Monterrey five years ago,

there is a clear need for the donor community to adhere more closely to the commitments made then, as well as at Gleneagles in 2005. Developing countries need more financial assistance. Official development assistance (ODA) has grown in real terms over the past decade, but much of that growth reflects exceptional debt relief operations. Total ODA actually declined in real terms last year, compared to 2005. As a result, fulfilling the commitments made at Gleneagles to double aid for Africa by 2010 will require a very rapid acceleration in aid disbursements, well above what is currently envisaged for the G-7.

Some positive signs are emerging, however, as several donor countries are making efforts to raise their aid budgets. In this regard, I welcome the recent commitment by the European Union to reach the overall aid target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income by 2015. In addition, the donor community is more aware of the need to improve the quality of aid and to put into practice the objectives of the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

The Fund welcomes the emergence of a variety of players in the donor community, in particular, non-Development Assistance Committee (DAC) bilateral donors, global funds and private foundations. The non-DAC donors can make a real difference to the development effort, as their own experience allows them to bring a fresh perspective to it. Global funds and private foundations have access to non-traditional funding sources and are playing increasingly important roles; three per cent of ODA is now channelled through global funds, and donations from private foundations are estimated at between $10 billion and $25 billion a year. The initial experience with innovative financing mechanisms, such as the International Finance Facility for Immunization and the airline ticket tax, has also been positive.

The increase in the number and variety of donors highlights the importance of effective donor coordination to ensure that aid is well harmonized and aligned with country priorities. It is also important to increase the predictability of aid and, to the extent that countries are able to plan the timing and the size of aid flows, they can maximize their development impact and minimize or eliminate any unintended macroeconomic consequences.

Allow me to say a few words about the role of the IMF in helping countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. We have taken a careful look at our macroeconomic and fiscal policy advice to low-income countries to see how best to make use of aid when it is scaled up. I wish to highlight four major conclusions of this review.

First, the Fund must continue to help countries create and maintain a sound macroeconomic environment in which they can use aid fully and well. This involves the careful coordination of fiscal, monetary and exchange rate policies. But Fund-supported programmes will be designed from now on to support the full spending and absorption of aid and to allow a more even distribution of expenditures over time so that unpredictable aid shortfalls do not interrupt development expenditures.

Secondly, it is important that countries and their partners plan ahead. Medium-term fiscal and debt frameworks are critical to making maximum use of aid resources; the Fund, together with other donors, will work to strengthen countries' capacities to develop such medium-term frameworks.

Thirdly, over the medium term, countries should strengthen their own revenue efforts so as to become less dependent on aid. Key policies in this area are broadening the tax base and strengthening revenue administrations. Here, too, the Fund is providing technical assistance to member countries to enhance domestic resource mobilization.

Fourthly, improving the efficiency of aid-financed spending programmes will require a further strengthening of fiscal institutions, including public financial management systems. We have stepped up our technical assistance to low-income countries to help them make progress in these areas. We are also intensifying our efforts to improve our collaboration with donors. In this regard, I welcome the Secretary-General's recent initiative to establish an Africa Steering Group to speed up the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. I was pleased to participate in the first meeting in September, and we look forward to making a practical contribution to the work of the Steering Group. The IMF, together with the DAC secretariat, is going to coordinate the work of the thematic group on aid predictability.

We realize that to be effective in our endeavours to assist countries to reach the MDGs, the IMF must remain a credible partner in the eyes of all its members, especially the developing countries.

Therefore, I am happy to say that progress is being made on the quota and voice reforms in the IMF. There is now a broad recognition among our members that these reforms should lead to an increase in the voting share for developing countries as a whole, and that was reaffirmed by the International Monetary and Financial Committee in its meeting just last Saturday in Washington.

Let me finish by saying that we consider that there are grounds for optimism about the prospects for reducing poverty in the coming years, thanks to the progress that has been made by many developing countries in reforming their economies and by donors in aligning and harmonizing their assistance. But it is also clear that the Millennium Development Goals cannot be reached without significant increases in donor financial assistance. Therefore we now sound our call to the international community to make the fulfilment of its commitments to increase aid become a reality.

The President: I now give the floor to Ms. Sendanyoye-Rugwabiza, Deputy Director-General of the World Trade Organization.

Ms. Sendanyoye-Rugwabiza (World Trade Organization): First of all, let me restate how important it is for the World Trade Organization (WTO) and our Director-General, Mr. Pascal Lamy, to be associated with this discussion.

Progress is being made on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in which the Monterrey process has played a crucial role. But some regions, notably Africa, are certainly lagging behind, particularly with regard to some goals. The Millennium Summit vision can still be realized, but greater political resolve is needed for that to happen. We need to follow up on Monterrey and renew our engagement in the areas and objectives where progress is still lacking. Next year's follow-up Conference on Financing for Development in Qatar should be a milestone in the process.

I would like to focus on trade. My starting point will be the Secretary-General's report prepared for our meeting today. The Secretary-General is right in pointing out that trade has continued to grow and has helped to alleviate poverty in many regions around the world. Unfortunately, however, we have to admit that the opportunities and results afforded by trade are not shared by all. The importance of trade as a driver of growth is clear and a successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round is the major contribution that World Trade Organization can make to global efforts for poverty alleviation and development. This is where the WTO contribution to financing for development can be found.

So our challenge today and for years to come is to make sure that the new opportunities that will hopefully result from the Doha Development Agenda — whether we are speaking of duty-free and quota-free access to developed and developing country markets for the least developed countries or sharp reductions in agriculture subsidies in developed countries, whether we are speaking of cotton or the elimination of export subsidies, the disciplines on fishery subsidies or the new rules on facilitating trade — will translate into trade realities, both for the least developed countries and many developing countries.

The Secretary-General is also right when he warns against the pressure of protectionism. Today, I am pleased to report that negotiations started to move ahead again last July, when the negotiating groups in agriculture and industrial products put texts on the table through their Chairs. These texts have helped our members to realize that what has been achieved during the past six years and what is on the table today is quite substantial. They have certainly realized that what remains to be done is worth some additional effort and political push.

We have regained a good level of momentum in our work, and the challenge now is to accelerate that momentum in the days and weeks ahead, so that the necessary compromises can be reached. However, now more than ever, time is running out. Now is the time for political leaders to rise above the many doubts and difficulties and to truly focus on the broader picture. The challenge now is about leadership, about compromise, about countries recognizing their common interest in success and the collective costs of failure.

Finally, I would like to say a word about Aid for Trade. The WTO Aid for Trade programme is not linked directly to the negotiations. But there can be no doubt that for many of our members, in particular the least developed countries and many low-income countries, this programme is of enormous significance for their ability to expand their share and volume of

world trade and to become more effectively integrated into the multilateral trading system.

Last month, in cooperation with the regional development banks, the World Bank and many other partners, including United Nations agencies and private sector organizations, WTO organized three regional meetings on Aid for Trade in Lima, Manila and Dar es Salaam. I believe these meetings have helped us raise awareness of the need to reinvest in the growth and trade agenda, and of the need for the development community to refocus on the growth agenda, if we are to sustain our poverty reduction effort.

I wish now to mention the key messages that resulted from the three meetings. First, it is important that trade ministers work more closely with finance and development ministers, if we are to succeed in attracting additional and more effective aid for trade. It is also clear that it is impossible to overstate the importance of a focused and sustained commitment to trade-led growth as a priority for development. Further, developing countries, especially the low-income countries whose trade capacity deficit is the largest, must agree on the two or three national priorities that they believe will impact most on their trade growth. It was also quite clear that not only does the private sector have a vital role to play but also Aid for Trade strategies will succeed only if they are driven by on-the-ground business experience and needs. And last but not least, consistent with the subject of this meeting, it was observed that predictability and accessibility of concessional financing is crucial.

The next step now is to build on the progress made and, accordingly, we are planning to have the first annual global review in the WTO General Council on 20 and 21 November, so that we can move to operational aspects, including through conducting a quantitative and qualitative evaluation in the true spirit of mutual accountability of our shared commitment to growth, poverty reduction and development.

Your support in this process is crucial, both within your capitals but also within the multilateral processes, to ensure that the Doha Development Agenda and Aid for Trade can and will deliver for the least developed countries and the developing countries.

The President: I now give the floor to Mr. Cheick Sidi Diarra, Special Representative of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at the United Nations Headquarters.

Mr. Diarra (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) (*spoke in French*): It is a great pleasure and a privilege for me to speak today on behalf of Mr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), at this High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development. The full text of Mr. Panitchpakdi's statement is available in this Hall. I would like in particular to stress UNCTAD's participation, as one of the main stakeholders in financing for development, and I would like to analyse the challenges that face us in attaining the goals contained in the Monterrey Consensus.

The six priority areas identified in the Consensus have been the subject of active research and analysis on the part of UNCTAD, which has developed programmes for technical cooperation and consensus-building. For UNCTAD, this is a natural, essential commitment. In fact, for more than 40 years, UNCTAD has been a point of convergence within the United Nations system when it comes to dealing with problems relating to trade and development, as well as investment and finance, which are all questions that go to the very heart of the Monterrey Consensus.

The Twelfth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, which will take place in Accra from 20 to 25 April 2008, will discuss the opportunities and challenges of globalization and its predictable effects on development. We all expect that the outcome of that conference will provide fruitful ground for the follow-up conference on financing for development that will take place in Doha in December 2008. These two crucial conferences should remind all institutional stakeholders and all Member States of the importance of their commitment to the United Nations mission to promote development.

(*spoke in English*)

The Monterrey Consensus highlighted the role of internal conditions for mobilizing resources, both public and private, in order to sustain adequate levels of productive investment. Indeed, harnessing domestic financial resources is important for accelerating economic growth, as well as reducing dependence on official development assistance (ODA) and associated conditionality's, thereby increasing ownership of the development process.

It should be emphasized that the development of domestic financial sectors requires active Government

intervention, especially in poor countries. For example, UNCTAD has found that private savings in African countries are rarely held in the form of assets that can be easily transformed into productive investments, mostly because of the weakness of financial sectors. Effective channelling of such resources to productive investments is an essential element in domestic resource mobilization.

As shown in UNCTAD's *World Investment Report 2007*, foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows to developing economies last year reached a record high of $379 billion. FDI flows were at their highest level in Africa and throughout much of Asia. However, the share of least developed countries (LDCs) in total FDI to developing countries remained low, at around 2.5 per cent, in 2006. At the same time, FDI remained highly concentrated, with the top 12 recipients absorbing 70 per cent of the total inflows to developing countries.

FDI remains the largest component of external flows to developing countries as a group. But, in the case of the LDCs, official development assistance accounts for a greater proportion of external finance than FDI. The challenge is to ensure that ODA and FDI complement each other, for example in the context of improving infrastructure services. Another important trend is the continued increase of FDI from the South, which represents an increasingly important source of finance for development. Meanwhile, the growing role in the South's sovereign wealth funds engaging in outward FDI creates a whole new set of strategic assets for financing development.

Along with other stakeholders, UNCTAD is committed to upholding the United Nations Millennium Declaration and its goal of an open, equitable, non-discriminatory and predictable multilateral trading and financial system. UNCTAD's mission entails promoting trade as an effective instrument for the beneficial integration of developing countries into the international trading system. In recent years, international trade has made important contributions to economic growth in developing countries and has the potential for an even bigger impact.

The emergence of some developing countries as regional or global locomotives of trade and growth, along with a sustained expansion in South-South trade, is shaping what is now referred to as a new geography of international trade. These global trends, however, conceal many disparities within and among countries, especially LDCs, landlocked developing countries and small vulnerable economies, where poverty is endemic and participation in international trade is weak.

Priority areas to be addressed in the coming period include redressing asymmetries in the multilateral trading system through delivery of the Doha Development Agenda of the Doha Round negotiations; ensuring development coherence between the multilateral trading system and the proliferation of regional trade agreements; and sustaining and widening the dynamism in the new growth poles in the South.

Official development assistance is an essential complement to other sources of financing for development and embodies both a developmental and moral imperative that should not escape us. It is disappointing to note that in 2006, ODA from countries members of the Development Assistance Committee declined for the first time since 1997 to 0.30 per cent of gross national income, well below the universally endorsed target of 0.7 per cent.

Increasing South-South development finance cooperation raises important issues of international coordination, but it also widens the field of ODA sources and offers an opportunity for developing country borrowers and aid recipients to benefit from different development paradigms and less invasive conditionality's. To further improve the global financial and aid architecture, new players should have greater voice in the decision-making process of the international financial institutions. That would help to redress their exclusion from the system of debt rescheduling and set the scene for their active involvement in the relevant development cooperation forums.

As shown in the recent report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the external debt crisis and development, the nominal value of the total external debt of developing countries increased in 2006 but decreased as a share of their gross national product. Debt-relief initiatives and favourable external conditions facilitated that reduction in developing countries' sovereign external debt with official and private creditors.

UNCTAD's research highlights the fact that the composition of the long-term debt of developing countries increasingly features bond debt and domestic

public debt as more developing countries gain access to global capital markets. That poses new challenges for policymakers in developing countries, as well as for the international financial community, which needs to continue working on appropriate mechanisms for efficient and orderly bond-debt rescheduling.

Of persistent concern is the fact that the goal of additionality of debt relief has not been achieved. Nominal ODA less debt forgiveness remains at levels similar to those of the early 1990s and real ODA less debt forgiveness is well below the levels of 10 years ago. It is essential to reconsider the modalities and eligibility criteria for debt relief in a manner that ensures additionality and separates future debt relief for low-income countries from more critical ODA requirements.

Meanwhile, concerns also remain with regard to the debt sustainability framework for middle- and low-income countries. Until a more comprehensive system is developed, it is best that debt sustainability for development purposes be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Finally, let me touch upon two aspects of the important systemic question, which, if not coherently addressed, will render the task of financing development through the channels I outlined earlier even more elusive.

The first pertains to the new situation in which the accumulation of reserves and reserve net capital flow means that the developing world is effectively lending to the advanced economies. That accumulation of reserves is seen by some observers as evidence of mercantilist policies, but concerned countries perceive that strategy to be driven by the need to self-protect against future currency and financial crises or to be able to deal with a possible banking crisis. In this sense, their strategy offers them double protection. First, in keeping exchange rate slightly undervalued and more competitive, these countries are able to avoid sudden jumps in their exchange rate, while overvalued exchange rates are difficult and often impossible to defend. Moreover, a slightly undervalued currency is consistent with lower, pro-growth domestic interest rates. Secondly, by accumulating ample reserves, they are ready to deal with possible market turbulence.

Furthermore, countries with a weak banking system may want to accumulate reserves to deal with a possible banking crisis. The fact that those strategies are favoured over the use of the protection mechanisms provided by the international financial institutions points to possible weaknesses in the international financial architecture.

Meanwhile, in the wake of the financial crises of the late 1990s, several developing countries found the post-crisis adjustment policy packages proposed by the international financial community to be intrusive in the sphere of governance and often ineffective. Such countries have since adopted pre-emptive policies aimed at minimizing the need for reliance on international bailouts in the case of future crises. That is partly driven by the perception that the major advanced economies are not fully committed to policies aimed at guaranteeing global financial stability. Such a situation risks marginalizing essential international financial institutions and leading to the adoption of second-best policies. That highlights the need for a truly cooperative global monetary system and a reform of the international financial institutions that would increase ownership of the policy prescriptions they advocate.

The President: I call on Mr. Ad Melkert, Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme.

Mr. Melkert (United Nations Development Programme): We are at the halfway point in the great global campaign to address the unacceptable divide between rich and poor. The Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have provided a global beacon for progress, but time is running out.

We have seen unprecedented levels of economic growth over the past five years, coupled with a decreasing proportion of people living on less than a dollar day from around a third in 1990 to about a fifth today. Those trends, if they continue, will mean that the global community will meet the flagship goal of cutting extreme poverty in half by 2015.

At the same time, those aggregated figures hide some deeply disturbing realities. As we enter the second half of the campaign, we see too many countries where progress is uneven or human development is actually declining, particularly in places ridden by conflict. Half the population of the developing world still lacks access to basic sanitation, and about 2 billion people have no regular access to reliable energy services. Over half a million women die

each year from treatable and preventable complications of pregnancy and childbirth, and more than 15 million children have lost one or both parents to AIDS. On top of that, many people living in Africa, small island developing States and Central America, and millions in Asia who depend upon Himalayan river flows see their chance to escape poverty severely threatened by the effects of climate change.

Are those reasons to despair? On the contrary, many successful interventions, led by developing countries and supported by targeted donor contributions, have shown that social and economic exclusion are often human-made and can therefore be tackled by putting brains, organization and resources together with the determination to make poverty history.

So what does it take? It primarily takes the global partnership for development to strive for inclusive growth and to meet existing commitments to support. The Consensus agreed in Monterrey was a crucial cornerstone of that partnership. It identified the rights and responsibilities of all countries to act.

So now is the time to re-energize our collective efforts. The agenda for next year's meeting in Doha should set the direction for the second half of the MDG campaign. I would like to suggest seven essential outcomes that we should focus upon. The first is a clear and consistent MDG commitment as part of national development strategies; second, unambiguous recognition of MDG financing needs in macroeconomic and public expenditure frameworks; third, debt relief combined with human development investment strategies; fourth, stronger domestic resource mobilization where profits or wealth provide the basis for fair taxation; fifth, better aid predictability and coordination, including from the United Nations Development Group; sixth, a global trade system turned in favour of the poorest countries, which represents a crucial credibility test for everyone meeting in Doha, of all places. Those are six outcomes that have built upon different degrees of progress since Monterrey.

There is, unfortunately, less progress to build upon for the seventh outcome, which focuses on women's empowerment. These are the facts: a woman in a developed country faces a lifetime risk of 1 in 7,300 of dying during pregnancy or childbirth. For a woman in a developing country, the risk is 1 in 75; in Africa, it is 1 in 26. Primary education enrolment is on the rise, but many girls are still far from entering the world of learning. Next year will be the International Year of Sanitation; in many places, girls and women will be the last to benefit. Therefore, Doha could make a big jump forward if it subscribes to an outcome that recognizes the priority of support for women and girls as the ultimate key to unlocking the door to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Finally, I would like to suggest three elements that would enable the global community to distinguish Doha from Monterrey. The focus for moving forward should be on, first, tailored operational plans and commitments, rather than highly aggregated estimates; secondly, a breakdown of multi-year donor and domestic resource plans at country level, rather than the big figures that tend to overload many a final communiqué; and thirdly, the twinning of economic growth and human development in macro-economic and public expenditure frameworks, rather than suggesting that one could go without the other. Focusing on those elements will ensure that we emerge from Doha with a concrete, actionable framework for indeed achieving the MDGs by 2015.

The President: I call on His Excellency Mr. Nikola Špirić, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Mr. Špirić (Bosnia and Herzegovina) (*spoke in Bosnian; interpretation provided by the delegation*): At the outset, let me express my appreciation for the opportunity to address such a distinguished gathering today.

It is well known that Bosnia and Herzegovina has to date not participated in such a high-level dialogue on financing for development. I therefore feel both pleased and obligated in equal measure.

I strongly believe that the United Nations is the best forum for discussing such an important matter. I feel that only such meetings as this provide exceptional opportunities to address and ultimately resolve such important issues as global economic development, improving living standards for millions of people around the world, combating poverty, combating HIV/AIDS and protecting the environment, with special emphasis on the influence that climate change will have on the future of humankind.

It is of the utmost importance that we find common ground and use such meetings to demonstrate the political will to secure as many resources as possible for the purpose of global development. Obviously, the challenges of our time will be better met if we streamline all of our efforts, instead of individual countries engaging in uncoordinated activities.

Accordingly, it is my firm belief that the only way to ensure a satisfactory level of financing for development is through a comprehensive approach, primarily mobilizing all available resources. Thus, it is apparent that the development of trade and investments is an essential component of such an approach. All must agree that we have to take responsibility for improving and enhancing our economic and social interdependence and sustainable development at all levels, including global, to ensure that our rich diversity serves as a foundation of our success.

It is also our obligation to influence and change our deeply rooted spending habits. I am afraid that existing consuming behaviour will not benefit the environmental cause. This planet is the only one we have, and we should therefore avoid the uncontrolled destruction of resources that leads to increased pollution.

My country, Bosnia and Herzegovina, will do its best to meet those goals. We are aware that our role in today's world is very limited, but I am convinced that we can and will make a contribution to global development. Let us all recall the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which states that, apart from being responsible for our individual communities, we also bear the collective responsibility to globally affirm the principles of human dignity, equality and justice. However, I strongly believe that Bosnia and Herzegovina can make its best contribution by undertaking measures for its own dynamic economic and social development.

We should not forget that my country needed assistance in the recent past, and that to a certain extent it still does today, due to its devastating economic collapse in the 1990s on a scale unprecedented among the Central and Eastern European nations since the end of the Second World War.

Regardless of that distressing past, which inevitably had harsh consequences for our economy and development, we in Bosnia and Herzegovina have already started to address the challenges of our time. I am referring to poverty reduction; the structural reforms necessary to make Bosnia and Herzegovina a vital, productive economy integrated into the world's markets; maintaining the macroeconomic stability that enables growth and development; reducing unemployment; attracting foreign direct investment; and ensuring the preconditions for sustainable and balanced economic development.

Free trade is one of the key elements of our development policy, and Bosnia and Herzegovina is doing its best to promote it. I am proud to say that Bosnia and Herzegovina has one of the most liberal trade regimes in the subregion and is striving to set up as many bilateral trade agreements as possible.

We are doing our best to implement all possible measures to protect the environment, including by ratifying the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Our efforts are focused on adjusting our legislation to be fully in line with relevant global requirements. It is obvious that a constructive, global approach to environmental protection is needed, for individual country efforts are insufficient.

The issue of environmental protection is very complex and sensitive. It is therefore very difficult, if not impossible, to satisfy both extremes: the necessity of economic development, on the one hand, and the necessity of environmental protection on the other. Members will agree that only underdeveloped regions are unpolluted. Our task is to try to harmonize those two extremes. It is not an easy task, but it is one to which we should all be committed.

I appeal to everyone to mobilize all available resources to contribute to sustainable development. There is no alternative. I assure the General Assembly that Bosnia and Herzegovina will do its best in that respect.

The President: I call on Her Excellency Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar, State Minister for Economic Affairs of Pakistan, who will speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Ms. Khar (Pakistan): It is a great honour and personal pleasure for me to make this statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China at the third High-level Dialogue of the General Assembly on Financing for Development. We are confident that our deliberations at this High-level Dialogue and during

the ongoing sixty-second session will catalyse our preparations for a serious and meaningful review of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and our endeavours to delineate a clear road map for future actions based on lessons learned and current and emerging realities.

Mr. Laing (Bahamas), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Like any review process, the fundamental questions before us are simple. What has happened thus far on the path decided at Monterrey? What has changed? Is the trajectory of change positive or negative? What should be done further to advance the implementation of the goals approved at Monterrey?

The Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly, in a candid review of the Monterrey implementation report contained in document A/62/217, have conveyed a mixed picture, with weak progress in some areas and potential retrogression on other objectives of Monterrey. The Group of 77 largely agrees with that assessment. Indeed, we are of the firm view that Monterrey suffers from a serious implementation deficit.

Let me take this opportunity to present an overview of the global situation as perceived by the Group.

First, while some developing countries have exhibited dynamic economic performance, many countries remain mired in the vicious circle of poverty, lacking productive capacity and supply side constraints, dependent often on a single commodity, vulnerable to external economic turbulence, and unattractive for commercially driven investment. Many, if not most, are far from achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2007 — the halfway mark of 2015 and the target date for achieving the MDGs.

Second, while there has been improvement in the external debt situation of the developing countries through improved debt management strategies and more intense international cooperation, the total external debt of developing countries has nonetheless increased in these years. Importantly, the conditions that led to the global debt crisis still exist. Many beneficiary countries may be led back into debt-creating financial circumstances.

Third and very important, the increase in official development assistance (ODA) remains well short of the 0.7 per cent target. In fact, it dipped last year to 0.30 from 0.36 in 2005, despite the publicity surrounding the G-8 summit, during which the doubling of aid flows was prominently promised.

Fourth, the continuing impasse in the Doha Round of trade negotiations has placed a big question mark over the credibility of the multilateral trading system and the multilateral trade negotiating process, particularly in the context of the commitments made to the developing countries. Clearly, answers need to be evolved on how development and trade goals can be reached within the context of continuing inequity and discriminatory constraints imposed by the present multilateral trading system.

Fifth, the level of development financing in many cases is less than the outflow of resources from the concerned developing countries due to growing trade deficits, the transfer of invisibles and capital flight. The flow of foreign direct investment is focused mostly on a small number of dynamic emerging markets, with most developing countries starved of investment finance.

Sixth, the global financial system continues to evolve in ways and in directions over which neither international institutions nor most Member countries have much influence or control. The developing countries certainly have little ability to influence financial trends, despite the fact that those trends have significant implications for their growth and development, not least due to the volatility of the situation. Perversely, in part to guard against that volatility, developing countries have accumulated large reserves that are transferred back to the deficit country. That has contributed to enlarging the net outflows of finance from the developing to the developed countries, which went up from about $533 billion in 2005 to $662 billion in 2006. Simultaneously, actual resource flows for development also declined.

Seventh, a global economic slowdown, perhaps even a recession, is feared in the wake of the recent turbulence in financial markets. Such turbulence was anticipated by some analyses within the United Nations as a consequence of the persistent global trade and financial imbalances of recent years.

The trends identified above and developments over the past several months, particularly in the

international financial markets, point to both the deficit of implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the issues that Monterrey was unable to adequately address. The unresolved challenges that we confront today in financing the development goals are likely to become more complex and difficult in the future, particularly in the context of the special financing and resource requirements that would enable the developing countries to meet the challenges of climate change.

The situation clearly calls for the redoubling of our efforts to arrest and reverse the disturbing trends through a genuine and enhanced global partnership for development. The Group of 77 and China suggests the following for consideration in the context of the preparations for the Doha Conference on Financing for Development.

First, for the majority of the developing countries, concessional development financing remains an essential input for the realization of the MDGs and other national development goals. A strong push, therefore, for enhanced ODA flows, particularly meeting the 0.7 per cent target, is an uncompromisable and absolute imperative. Moreover, to secure additional resources, serious and creative pursuit of innovative means of financing is also needed. Similarly, ensuring greater aid effectiveness would also allow the optimal utilization of the existing resources. In that context, the new Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council, which brings together donors and recipient countries and civil society, should become the primary vehicle to strengthen aid effectiveness and aid accountability. The Forum should also examine the transaction cost of aid disbursement and the actual utilization of the allotted resources in the recipient countries.

Secondly, foreign direct investment plays a critical role in energizing the growth and implementation of development goals, especially in such sectors as infrastructure. Many developing countries lack the ability to attract the private investment flows required to finance such projects, which are fundamental to sustainable development. The United Nations system, in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, should put together a plan of action at Doha to further enhance the ability of the poor and vulnerable economies to attract private and multilateral investments. In that regard, we should consider the introduction of international and national investment guarantee schemes, tax and other incentives, revised risk rating arrangements, and so on, to direct larger private investment flows to developing countries, which cannot attract such transfers through normal market mechanisms.

Thirdly, the welcome debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative may have released resources for development-related expenditure in the developing countries. However, those resources are completely inadequate to enable the developing countries to realize the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. The gap in the availability of net concessional financing remains far too large. The situation clearly demands urgent, bolder and more encompassing initiatives to solve the external debt problems of the developing countries in an effective, equitable and development-oriented manner.

Fourthly, the Group of 77 and China supports a comprehensive reform of the international financial architecture, including enhancement in the voting powers of developing countries, within a specific time frame. The reform must also address the objectives for which the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was created: first, to ensure financial stability, and secondly, to ensure access to liquidity for those countries which actually need it. The Group of 77 and China will continue to press for such a fundamental reform of the international financial system and its governance architecture in all relevant forums.

The current attempts to reform the IMF address certain aspects of those challenges. Changes in the distribution of voting rights to reflect the new realities are needed immediately, but that alone will not resolve the fundamental problems of instability and unavailability of liquidity for those who really need it to generate growth and sustain development. The world needs to develop a strategic consensus on a comprehensive reform of the international financial and monetary system that encourages rapid, balanced and sustained growth and development in a globalized world economy. Reform must encompass liquidity creation, including special drawing rights, as well as ODA, debt, foreign direct investment and private investment.

Fifthly, in an integrated and globalized world economy, the developing countries are increasingly

vulnerable to actions and policies originating in the developed countries over which they have little or no control whatsoever. That is particularly true for the innovative and complex financial products developed and introduced in the markets of the advanced countries. There is clearly need for stronger regulatory mechanisms and greater transparency in the management of such new products and innovative instruments and over the recent impact they have had on global financial markets, including in the developing countries.

Sixthly, the Group of 77 and China call upon the developed countries to demonstrate the flexibility and political will required to break the current impasse in the Doha Round of trade negotiations and to work towards their early resumption and timely completion, with the fullest realization of the development dimensions of the Doha work programme. In that context, it is important to recognize the mandates contained in the Doha Ministerial Declaration, the World Trade Organization General Council decision of 1 August 2004, and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration to meaningfully integrate the developing countries into the multilateral trading system.

In conclusion, let me reiterate that the Monterrey Consensus has not gone far enough towards conceiving a new system of financial governance that would serve neither to redress the imbalances and inequities of the past nor to address the challenges of the present and the future. We are confident that the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus will provide a platform to meaningfully address those issues based on lessons learned and experiences gained over the past few years.

Today, at this high-level event, we should focus on formulating a framework that will ensure the optimum at the forthcoming International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, to be held in Qatar in the second half of 2008.

On behalf of the Group of the 77 and China, I assure the General Assembly of our commitment and active engagement in advancing the global discourse on financing for development and to work towards a results-oriented, negotiated and positive outcome of the Doha Conference.

The Acting President: I call on His Excellency Mr. Carlos Costa Pina, Secretary of State of Treasury and Finance of Portugal, who will speak on behalf of the European Union.

Mr. Pina (Portugal): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and to participate in this High-level Dialogue of the General Assembly on Financing for Development, which, on the road to Doha in 2008, is of importance for the follow-up to the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus.

The candidate countries, the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates align themselves with this declaration.

Among the main topics that I will address in my statement, the first concerns the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The international community finds itself at the mid-point on the road to achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. We have seen significant regional progress in the achievement of the MDGs in Latin America, China and India, but recognize the challenges in attaining those objectives. In that regard, we have to note that progress towards the MDGs in Africa is still too slow. Fragile States face particular challenges in today's globalized economy and in their efforts to reach the MDGs. In that context, we highlight the importance of addressing the special needs of fragile States, in particular their common situation of often being donor orphans.

Indeed, it is only through a truly collaborative spirit of partnership that the goals and objectives of the Consensus can be achieved. That collaboration is not limited to the more traditional actors in development financing, donors and recipients, but includes by definition all actors that have the potential to leverage development financing. The spirit of Monterrey must be kept alive and well.

Let me now refer to the European Union's Efforts in this area. The European Union reiterates its commitment to the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. In that regard, we will adopt a timetable for our member States to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national income for official development assistance by 2015, with an intermediate collective target of 0.39 per cent of gross national income by 2006, which, we are pleased to say, the European Union has since surpassed.

The European Union has committed itself to improving aid quality and effectiveness. Before the 2005 World Summit, the European Union also set a new intermediate collective target of 0.56 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance by 2010. The European Union has also set new and ambitious targets for official development assistance for Africa. Those significant efforts have led to the Union's currently providing 57 per cent of global official development assistance.

The European Union has a long-term commitment to Africa, and the joint strategy to be adopted during the second European Union-Africa Summit in Lisbon in December will outline a long-term shared vision of the future of European Union-Africa relations in a globalized world. Further efforts by the European Union in relation to increasing the efficacy of our official development assistance include the recently approved European Union Code of Conduct for Development Cooperation, which seeks to increase complementarity and division of labour in development policy.

It is of extreme importance, however, to reinforce aid effectiveness. As agreed in Monterrey, Mexico, and reaffirmed in the World Summit Outcome, every country has the primary responsibility for its own development and the role of good governance, sound policies and national development strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development. Effective and sustainable domestic resource mobilization in developing countries, especially through the strengthening of the national tax base and the effective use of national resources, is essential. Gender equality is particularly relevant when attempting to make effective use of national resources.

Official development assistance is an important complement to domestic resources and other sources of financing for development. From a qualitative standpoint, the Paris Declaration sets out clear commitments for both donor and recipient partners in terms of national ownership, donor coordination and harmonization, alignment, results and mutual accountability. The High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness taking place next year in Accra, Ghana, on that theme will be an important input to the upcoming Doha Conference.

In regard to developing innovative sources of financing, the value of which was recognized at the 2005 World Summit, various initiatives have been proposed and some are being implemented. The European Union welcomes the innovative sources of financing introduced and supported on a voluntary basis by some Member States, especially those health initiatives already on the way, such as the International Drug Purchase Facility's International Finance Facility for Immunization and the advanced market commitments initiative. Innovative financing mechanisms and solutions should also be further explored to finance environmental activities, particularly climate change-related activities in developing countries, including those related to the carbon market.

Foreign direct investment is also an important complement to domestic investments. In order to ensure continued and strengthened flows of foreign direct investment, efforts need to be continued to achieve transparent, stable and predictable investment climates. Public investments in basic infrastructure and the development of human capital and of institutional capacity are all relevant to sustained economic growth. The European Union also welcomes public-private partnerships and other mechanisms to promote foreign direct investment, and in that regard encourages good corporate governance and citizenship.

The European Union supports initiatives that increase the role and impact that the private sector can have as an engine for achieving the MDGs. In that regard, the good work being done by the Global Compact and the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships should continue to be supported.

Aid for Trade is critical to support the integration of developing countries, in particular least developed countries, into the world trading system and to use trade more effectively to reduce poverty. The European Union has recently approved its Aid for Trade strategy, which will ensure the quality of Aid for Trade, and strives to increase its collective expenditures on trade-related assistance to €2 billion per year from 2010.

The European Union has also been a frontrunner in putting in place the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries, having pledged the majority of the funding for the multilateral Trust Fund and being the first major developed market to provide duty-free, quota-free access to least developed countries under its

unilateral generalized system of preferences, via the policy known as Everything But Arms.

The promotion of development in the world also closely depends on debt-relief initiatives. Since 2005, European Union member States have provided large amounts of debt relief with a view to freeing up domestic resources to finance development priorities in order to achieve the MDGs. Last year, we witnessed important progress in deepening debt relief to the poorest countries through the implementation of the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative by the African Development Fund, the International Development Association (IDA), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Inter-American Development Bank. Indeed, the external debt position of low-income countries has improved in the past few years.

The ongoing Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative can be qualified as a success. Nominal debt-service relief under HIPC to the 20 completion-point countries has been estimated to amount to $44 billion. That represents a significant effort by donors and shows, in particular, European commitment to debt relief for the poorest countries. We reiterate our commitment to fully compensate IDA for the costs of grants and of the HIPC Initiative, and we urge all donors that have not yet done so to fully meet their commitments regarding the financing of the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative.

Debt sustainability remains a challenge to low-income countries. Creditors and debtor countries alike have a responsibility in ensuring long-term debt sustainability. The Debt Sustainability Framework of the World Bank and the IMF provides important guidance in that regard. As the primary responsibility for maintaining debt sustainability rests with the borrowing countries, we encourage each country to develop a comprehensive debt-management strategy. In addition, we urge all creditor countries to take debt sustainability aspects into consideration in their lending policies.

The European Union continues to support the efforts under way in governance reform at the World Bank and the IMF, including giving developing countries a stronger voice in decision-making. We believe that the two main goals are to ensure that the distribution of quotas adequately reflects the member countries' economic weight and role in the global economy and financial system and their ability to contribute financially. The European Union remains committed to ensuring the effective participation of developing countries and economies in transition in the international financial institutions. We recognize that governance reforms are essential to the continued effectiveness and credibility of those institutions and to fostering dialogue and cooperation among countries. Unstable conditions can cause disturbances to external stability. Therefore, the open-ended multilateral approach adopted by the international financial institutes to address global imbalances is the most adequate way to reduce such imbalances and sustain economic growth.

In conclusion, looking forward to Doha, the European Union supports a ministerial-level conference that follows the Monterrey format in terms of organization and the participation of stakeholders. The European Union could also support a ministerial declaration-style outcome focusing on the reaffirmation of the Monterrey Consensus and on how to promote its further implementation.

The EU would like to recall that we are at a decisive moment as we approach the Doha Conference in 2008, bearing in mind our commitments to reach the MDGs by 2015. Several initiatives and partnerships have been launched to speed up the progression towards the MDGs and the internationally agreed development goals. Let us take the advantage of the momentum and ramp up our efforts, in the true spirit of partnership enshrined in the Monterrey Consensus, to overcome our common obstacles and reach our common goals.

The Acting President: I call on His Excellency Mr. A.B. Mirza Md. Azizul Islam, The Honourable Finance Advisor of Bangladesh, who will speak on behalf of the least developed countries.

Mr. Azizul Islam (Bangladesh): I feel honoured to have the opportunity to speak at this High-level Dialogue on behalf of the least developed countries (LDCs).

The Monterrey Consensus marked a turning point in the approach to development cooperation. It encompasses a number of commitments by developed and developing countries. Since its adoption, some progress has been achieved. Nevertheless, one quarter of the global population still lives on less than one dollar a day. Income inequality is rising between and within nations.

The least developed countries are the most underprivileged. Unable to integrate themselves into the world economy in a meaningful way, they are threatened with marginalization. A number of them are slowly but inexorably sliding into a state of regress. Global support to them is far from adequate. The international community must stand by them. That, in our view, is the overarching goal of the Monterey Consensus. The Brussels Programme of Action for the LDCs is also based upon that core principle of global partnership.

International trade is supposed to be a driver of global partnership for development. However, LDCs cannot effectively gain from trade. That, to a significant extent, is because of a wide array of harmful subsidies, non-tariff restrictions, artificial standards imposed by importing countries, worsening terms of trade and highly volatile world prices. Those must be addressed.

The Doha negotiations should be concluded at the earliest. The special needs and interests of the LDCs must be placed at the heart of the Doha Round and its final outcome. Developed countries and developing countries in a position to do so should provide duty-free and quota-free market access for all products from LDCs without any restrictions. The trade capacity of the LDCs must be enhanced. The Aid for Trade Initiative should be operationalized immediately with sufficient additional funding. It should particularly support the LDCs in addressing their supply-side constraints and compensating the erosion of preferences that result from the most favoured nation tariff reduction.

Significant potential remains in the free movement of labour forces. We call upon the developed countries to liberalize their markets for all categories of service providers of the LDCs under Mode 4 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services. That will contribute to earning foreign exchange and alleviating the huge unemployment problem in the least developed countries.

Recently, the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative and the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative have yielded some positive results. However, the overall external debt situation of the LDCs remains a source of concern. The resources released for development through debt relief in actual practice are insignificant. Debt relief has also not been additional to official development assistance (ODA). We therefore call for the full cancellation of all outstanding debt, bilateral and multilateral, of all LDCs forthwith.

We are deeply concerned to note that, exclusive of debt forgiveness, ODA from Development Assistance Committee countries in 2006 declined to the level of 1999. Developed countries must fulfil their commitment of 0.2 per cent of their gross national product to LDCs immediately. The qualitative aspect of aid must be addressed. Aid delivery should be aligned to the national development goals and priorities of the recipients. An effective partnership and mutual accountability between donors and recipients should be established.

New and innovative sources of financing can supplement the existing sources. Several projects have already been launched and various additional ideas are being discussed. Those deserve further attention. We believe that meeting the resources gap in the LDCs should be the central objective of the innovative financial mechanisms.

Foreign direct investment inflows into LDCs can be an extremely useful conduit for capital flows, technology transfer, employment generation and entrepreneurship development. We recognize that, in recent years, foreign direct investment has increased remarkably. However, the flow remains highly concentrated in a few countries. That needs to be reversed.

The Monterrey Consensus underscores the need to strengthen the coherence, governance and consistency of the world's monetary, financial and trading systems. The governance regime of the Bretton Woods institutions needs to be overhauled. The current reform efforts, by doubling basic votes, would not significantly change the distribution of power in the Bretton Woods institutions. The final outcome of the voting reallocations must result in a significant increase in the voting power of all least developed countries.

The global community must bolster its efforts to meet the financing commitments reflected in the Monterrey Consensus five years ago. The Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development next year provides a significant opportunity for us. The idea of establishing an institutional arrangement under the auspices of the General Assembly for intergovernmental follow-up of

the financing for development process deserves favourable consideration.

The Acting President: I call on Her Excellency Ms. Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany.

Ms. Wieczorek-Zeul (Germany): I endorse the statement made by the Portuguese European Union presidency. I would just like to underline a few points and give the German perspective on certain issues.

Through the Millennium Summit and Monterrey — and I am fortunate and old enough to have participated in both events — we have developed a fundamentally new understanding of development cooperation, a shared understanding of a global partnership on equal terms involving all the countries of the world and working towards an inclusive and socially just trade globalization. In that spirit, the member countries of the European Union — as was outlined by my Portuguese colleague — have significantly increased their funding for development and will continue to do so. Within the framework of the European plan, the German Government will accordingly fulfil its financial obligations and the commitments it undertook at Heilingdamm during its presidency of the G-8.

As has been outlined, the Paris Declaration shows us the way to more effective cooperation by ensuring better coordination. The Code of Conduct will make for a better division of labour so that the financing can be used more to the benefit of developing countries. As the speaker before me mentioned, through debt relief provided in two ways — the Cologne debt relief of 1999 and the Gleneagles debt relief of 2006 — we have on the whole made available a total of $90 billion in debt that has been cancelled. Those funds have been freed up for poverty alleviation, for health and for education. It cannot be pointed out too often that, thanks to those debt relief initiatives, an additional 20 million children are able to go to school, have prospects, and enjoy opportunities and a better life.

At the replenishment conference for the Global Fund in Berlin in September, under the chairmanship of Mr. Kofi Annan, the German Government launched the Debt2Health initiative, under which former debt is turned into investment for health. I am very proud of that initiative. By the way, $10 billion have been collected and committed for the replenishment of the Global Fund. I would also commend the Global Fund because, since it was launched, it has saved about 2 million lives. That is one of the important tasks that we will sustain and where we will financially fulfil all the commitments that have been made.

As has been said by many of those who spoke before me, however, despite those huge successes we must not think that we can take it easy. The Secretary-General's mid-term review contains clear messages. Much has been achieved, but it is far from enough.

It is indeed true that, on the one hand, for the first time ever there are fewer than 1 billion people living in absolute poverty; but on the other, the number of starving people is still intolerably high. School enrolment rates have become much better, but there are still at least 77 million children not going to school. Time is pressing. If we do not take determined action now, we will not be able to achieve the Development Goals. They are firm commitments that we all made.

One thing is clear: either we will resolve global challenges through common action, or we will not resolve them at all. We need joint action based on responsibility shared by Governments and civil society, industrialized countries, emerging economies and developing countries, industry and business, individuals — every person is important — and organizations.

I believe that, as we prepare for the meeting in Doha — which we hope will send a signal regarding fulfilment of the commitments of the international community — there are major points that we must consider.

First, we must further reform the international financial system, which involves the issue of regulating hedge funds. It is interesting to see that the crisis in the financial markets that existed years ago in developing countries now exists in developed countries. That makes clear how great the task is.

Secondly, our promises alone are not enough; we must stick to the plan to gradually increase official development assistance. No one should say that the funds for that purpose cannot be found. The Swedish Institute for Security has told us that $184 for each man, woman and child in the world was spent on weapons in 2006. The Institute also tells us that, for just $20 per person, we could achieve all the Millennium Development Goals. It should be clear that it is possible to achieve them if we adjust our financial priorities.

Thirdly, the potential of innovative financing instruments is far from being exhausted. That is why the Pilot Group will present a political declaration on that topic this afternoon.

Fourthly, I would like to express my support for all those who have said that sustainable private investment is needed. More specifically, we need to provide women with access to financial means in order to promote their economic empowerment.

Fifthly, with regard to climate change and development goals, the most global of all challenges is climate change. We need to signal that halting climate change and tackling the millennium agenda belong together. We are told that the greatest threat in the twenty-first century is climate change. The developing countries have contributed the least to climate change — and here, I pay tribute to the speaker before me, the Finance Minister of Bangladesh — yet they are the ones suffering the most from its consequences. That is unfair, unjust and immoral. We must find ways to give all people hope and a perspective for the future and to simultaneously preserve the world's climate. The industrialized countries have a very special duty in that regard, and we must take it very seriously. New and just ways must be found.

Our country, Germany, has followed one of these new paths and plans to auction off carbon credits. Part of the revenues from such sales will be used for climate protection measures in developing countries. This new type of financing has huge possibilities. In that way, we are signalling that the discussion about climate change is not squeezing out the Millennium agenda; in fact, it is causing us to redouble our efforts.

In conclusion, I would like to associate myself with Eveline Herfkens, the Secretary-General's Executive Coordinator for the Millennium Development Goals Campaign, who has reminded us, "We are the first generation that can put an end to poverty. Please refuse to miss this opportunity."

The Acting President: I now give the floor to His Excellency The Honourable Mr. Errol Cort, Minister of Finance and the Economy of Antigua and Barbuda.

Mr. Cort (Antigua and Barbuda): My delegation supports the statement delivered by the State Minister for Economic Affairs of Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. It welcomes the opportunity to participate in this High-level Dialogue on implementation, which we expect will set the tone for the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus next year. In 2002, the international community forged a Consensus that we hoped would deliver the scope and scale of financing necessary to achieve internationally agreed development goals. Five years on, there has been little to no progress for the majority of the countries and the people whom the Consensus was intended to help.

International finance structures and systems are significantly more complex today than five years ago. Perhaps it is time for us to get back to the basics, refocus on the original intent and purposes of the Monterrey Coasensus and match the means to the objectives. Perhaps then we can make greater progress with implementation at the country level.

Foreign direct investment remains — in many respects and for many countries, including my own — the bedrock source of development finance. For foreign direct investment to lead to development, much depends on the nature of the relationship between companies and the domestic environment. Our challenge remains one of broadening the focus beyond the bottom line to include stimulating the job market and generating revenue, leading to a positive impact on standards of living. We must do a better job of directly linking foreign direct investment with greater levels of standards of living.

On its own, foreign direct investment does not lead to growth and development. It is therefore imperative that such investment be placed within the broader sustainable development context. That has not occurred enough over the past five years.

Investors hedge their risk, and, in so doing, they often choose to look to capital markets that are less risky than small island States and other small, vulnerable economies. The international system should help such countries manage risks by, for example, lowering risks for investment in physical infrastructure projects and providing capacity-building support to create the necessary regulatory framework.

The declining flows of official development assistance to the Caribbean region over the past decade have significantly compounded our development dilemma. Financing appropriate policy responses to challenges created by international and global factors

is extremely difficult. Small, vulnerable economies have few options with regard to a trade-led growth strategy. Experts point to trade diversification, occupying higher value-added points in the production and supply chain, and infrastructural development as vital to such a strategy. Yet, Antigua and Barbuda's attempt to bridge the financing gap through diversification in the service sector has been extremely frustrating, owing to the unfair trading practices of major players.

In addition, the proliferation of regional trading agreements has been met with mixed feelings. I believe, however, that the persistent failure of the international trading system forces our countries to look inwards and rely more and more on bilateral and regional trading agreements. We have no choice; the international trading system continues to fail us, the big and more powerful players continue to bully us, while development goals remain illusive.

For us, the single most pressing international financial challenge remains reducing the country's external debt to a sustainable level. It is extremely challenging for us to make mid- to long-term development plans, backed by sound economic growth forecasts, in the face of persistent levels of unsustainable debt. It also challenges our ability to accurately forecast social spending beyond the short term.

The Secretary-General's report rightly points out that a sizeable portion of the world's poor — some 41 per cent — lives in middle-income countries. Yet, woefully insufficient attention has been paid to the unsustainable debt burden of these countries. If this situation persists, there is the possibility that today's middle-income countries will become tomorrow's low-income countries.

In this regard, my delegation calls on the international financial community to demonstrate a greater awareness of and sensitivity to the significant debt challenges facing many middle-income countries, especially in the Caribbean region, where the challenges are primarily precipitated by the vulnerabilities associated with small island economies. We further encourage the international community to be more creative in developing instruments to specifically assist middle-income countries that do not qualify for International Development Association funding, but continue to experience significant development challenges as a result of their high debt overhang.

For several years now, we have been talking about harnessing the power of globalization for the common good of humanity. Yet there are alarmingly high levels of inequality of income and wealth within countries and among countries. Globalization has been fuelling this divergence, making economic inequality and social exclusion more of a problem today than it was five years ago.

Closing the income gap is closely linked to closing the technology gap among countries. It is my delegation's view that any serious review of the Monterrey Consensus must address the steps to be taken to scale up technology transfer to developing countries through adequate provision of financing for information and communication technology and other clean technologies.

It is lamentable that, five years after the adoption of the international compact that was crafted at Monterrey, significant imbalances in the international financial system remain, and that these imbalances militate against the efforts of developing countries. Simply put, we will not be able to achieve our development goals without significant changes in the structures that govern international finance.

At issue is the level of voice and representation of developing countries in the structure of international economic and financial governance. If this situation does not change swiftly and decisively, in five to ten years we may be back here examining the failures of the international community to deliver on the Millennium Development Goals.

The Acting President: I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Baledzi Gaolathe, Minister of Finance and Development Planning of Botswana.

Mr. Gaolathe (Botswana): Sir, let me start by commending the President of the General Assembly for convening this High-level Dialogue and for thereby providing Member States with a platform to exchange views on key issues pertaining to our development agenda. The President's leadership is valuable because of the significance of the subject not only to our overall development agenda but also in the context of the revitalization of the General Assembly.

I also wish to express our gratitude to the Secretary-General for his informative and analytical

report (A/62/217). His continuing commitment to the important matter of financing for development is critical for the success of the United Nations in stimulating the international community to implement a robust global development agenda.

The theme for this High-level Dialogue, "The Monterrey Consensus: status of implementation and tasks ahead", is particularly relevant as it will allow Member States to prepare for the implementation review of the undertakings we made in Monterrey in 2002. When we met in Monterrey at that time, we undertook to eradicate poverty, achieve sustained economic growth and promote sustainable development, with the objective of creating an inclusive and equitable world order.

Another important issue is that the Monterrey Consensus emphasized the importance of internal mobilization of savings in the public and private sectors in order to sustain productive investment and enhance capacity-building. In Botswana, we have responded by ensuring prudent macroeconomic management and by using national development plans to guide our resource allocations from the short to medium term. We have also consistently allocated more than 20 per cent of our budget towards educational and training expenditures, thereby achieving universal access for our young people to 10 years of basic education.

At Monterrey, we expressed concern that the shortfall in the flow of resources for development would undermine the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This concern remains valid, especially given that many members of the donor community are not fully honouring their commitments, in spite of the fact that we collectively set targets and recognized the importance of a coherent and coordinated international approach in the mobilization of resources for development. Developed and developing countries committed themselves as partners in development to work together in ensuring the effectiveness of official development assistance (ODA).

As we meet here today, we have a major responsibility to seriously take stock of progress made in the implementation of commitments agreed in Monterrey. Indications are that, at the current level of development resource flows, it will be difficult for many developing countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, to achieve the MDGs, notwithstanding the region's recent strong performance, with expected growth of 6.5 per cent in 2007 and a positive outlook for 2008.

Although we must all be concerned that despite recent commitments by developed partners, the current and projected levels of ODA for the period 2006 to 2010 still falls far short of the Monterrey target. We must commend Member States that have met the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for ODA and encourage those that have not yet done so to make concerted efforts to achieve that target, in view of the fact that we are midway to the MDGs target date of 2015.

In our pursuit of global development and in our efforts to eradicate poverty and disease, including HIV/AIDS, we must recognize that international cooperation and collaboration are critical for our success. In that regard, there should be no room for abject poverty and opulence to exist side by side if we can successfully achieve the MDGs and other relevant development targets.

We are not simply advocating an increase in the flow of resources but effective official development assistance to ensure sustained development. In that respect, the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness is a clear manifestation of our collective determination to ensure that aid is used meaningfully to fight poverty and disease and, above all, to achieve sustainable development through global partnerships. Botswana is committed to the implementation of the Declaration. There can be no doubt therefore that the review of the Monterrey Consensus next year must of necessity take into account the new architecture of initiatives aimed at improving the effectiveness of ODA. It must also be pointed out that many developing countries on the African continent and elsewhere have considerably improved their macroeconomic management.

The Monterrey Consensus identified trade as an engine of economic growth and development and called for its liberalization. In that regard, the Aid for Trade Initiative is very important and deserves adequate and predictable resources to support developing countries such as Botswana to, inter alia, overcome adjustment challenges resulting from the loss of trade preferences.

Botswana fully accepts that each country has the primary responsibility for its own development and that prudent financial management, sound macroeconomic policies and political stability are essential elements for such development. In that regard, Botswana's long-term vision — Prosperity for All by 2016 — is testimony to our commitment to embrace the MDGs in addressing the challenges facing our country. In doing so, we welcome the critical importance of international support and cooperation.

Over the years, Botswana has made considerable progress in its national development efforts with the generous support of many countries, some of which are represented here. This led to Botswana being classified as a middle-income country. Nevertheless, as a developing country we continue to face some major challenges in areas including sustainable economic diversification, employment creation, fighting HIV/AIDS, rural development, private sector development and unfavourable climatic conditions. These challenges are not insurmountable, but they will require continued commitment to macroeconomic stability, prudent financial management and good governance.

At independence, we were one of the 25 poorest countries in the world, but we have since moved to our current status of a middle-income country, with a per capita income of almost $6,000 in 2007. And though our economy grew rapidly, at a rate of about 9 per cent per annum over the last 40 years, that growth has recently slowed down and must be improved. It is also worth noting that poverty rates declined from 59 per cent in 1985-1986 to 47 per cent in 1994-1995 and to 30 per cent in 2002-2003.

We are convinced that, with continued international assistance and collaboration designed to support various policy interventions and some of the planned major development projects, we can prevent a reversal of the gains of the past decades and can consolidate our achievements, thereby placing our country firmly on the sustainable development path. In our view, the upgrading of any country to a middle-income bracket should not automatically and immediately preclude it from concessionary funding before it can consolidate its development gains. Such countries should be progressively weaned through a blend of funding that is customized to meet their needs and to ensure a smoother transition.

As a middle-income country, we have had the unfortunate experience of being abandoned by the donor community at that critical transformation stage. This policy of immediately denying middle-income countries concessionary funding is clearly not in anybody's interest and has to be reassessed immediately, especially given such countries' increasing expenditure on social obligations, such as providing funds for the fight against HIV/AIDS, and their need to cover the infrastructure development gap that still exists.

In that regard, we welcomed the convening of the first and second Intergovernmental Conferences on Middle-Income Countries, held in Madrid in March 2007 and in El Salvador in October 2007, respectively. The objective of the meetings was to discuss the challenges facing middle-income countries and how the international development system should respond. As participants are aware, in El Salvador it was agreed, among other things, that support for middle-income countries must be strengthened and new and innovative cooperation mechanisms must be developed to bolster the efforts of those countries.

Secondly, it was agreed that the international cooperation system must provide support for middle-income countries in their development efforts to consolidate their achievements as they move forward and to avoid reversals, recognizing not only the intrinsic importance of the countries included in that category but also the positive impact that their development can have on the international system as a whole. Thirdly, it was agreed that the diversity of conditions and needs of developing countries makes it advisable to consider additional criteria besides per capita income for a more appropriate and targeted allocation of international cooperation resources within the framework of the alignment and harmonization of international cooperation.

Those issues are crucial to the development of middle-income countries. It is important, therefore, that the 2008 Monterrey Consensus review conference recognize the special challenges of middle-income countries and come up with the necessary measures to address them. The United Nations should provide leadership in ensuring that this category of States is not left out in the implementation of the United Nations development agenda. It is our hope and experience that this High-level Dialogue will concretely contribute to the preparations for the review conference in Doha.

The Acting President: I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Davoud Danesh-Jafari, Minister of Finance of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. Danesh-Jafari (Islamic Republic of Iran): At the outset, I would like to express my appreciation to the presidency for convening the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development.

We are on the road heading to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. In order to achieve the MDGs, much remains to be done by national Governments, as well as by the international community, in terms of financing for development.

The developing countries urgently and undeniably need a favourable global environment to pursue their development goals. I take the opportunity here to refer to several parameters which affect development activities. Official development assistance (ODA) is seen as one of the main components of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Developed countries which have not done so should allocate 0.7 per cent of their gross national income (GNI) to ODA, based on their long-standing commitments, which were reaffirmed in Monterrey. It is a source of concern that, despite those commitments, ODA declined between 2005 and 2006 and is expected to continue to fall slightly in 2007, as debt relief declines.

It is widely recognized that trade is an engine for development. Slow progress in multilateral trade negotiations and lack of appropriate multilateral agreements, as is now the case, will not help the international community boost economic growth and eradicate poverty worldwide. In such circumstances, strengthening bilateral and regional cooperation, especially among developing countries, is a viable and attainable solution.

According to the report of the Secretary-General on financing for development (A/62/217), despite the lack of appropriate physical infrastructure and the trade facilitation bottlenecks, the level of trade among developing countries increased from $577 billion in 1995 to $1.7 trillion in 2005. That is a threefold increase and a promising sign for development. It is obvious that regional trade and cooperation among developing countries should not be seen as an end in itself. It is simply a means to achieve faster growth. North-South as well as triangular cooperation remain crucial to improving the world economy and development activities. All States, particularly the developed ones, should make utmost efforts to continue and eventually conclude the ongoing negotiations on international trade successfully.

The international financial institutions have not yet succeeded in introducing effective plans and decisions to help developing countries tackle their economic and financial problems in order to achieve their development goals. In addition, the politicization of those institutions has been detrimental to their credibility and harmful to the development plans and activities of the developing countries and runs counter to the content of the articles of agreement of the institutions.

My delegation believes that the provision of adequate financial and technical assistance to recipient countries is required — taking into account their social and economic structures as well as the decision-making processes of the international financial institutions. We therefore firmly support appropriate structural reforms in the work of the Bretton Woods institutions. Among other things, strengthening participation and increasing the voting power of the developing countries in the process of decision-making and norm-setting are required so as to create a favourable global environment for sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

My Government welcomes various proposals and initiatives at all levels to identify innovative sources of financing for development as new tools to achieve development goals. However, we believe that such proposals or initiatives should not, directly or indirectly, undermine the interests of developing countries or hamper the process of development in those countries.

Adequate and stable financing, at both national and international levels, remains a prerequisite for development in developing countries. Thus, the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development, scheduled to be held in 2008 in Doha, should consider ways and means, including the establishment of an effective mechanism, to expedite and ensure timely implementation of the commitments made in Monterrey, particularly the target of 0.7 per cent of GNI for ODA by the developed countries.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has made considerable financial and technical contributions to other developing countries through bilateral channels, as well as to international funds and programmes on a voluntary basis. My country is an active member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund for Development. The Fund, from its inception in 1976, has allocated more than $9 billion to the sustainable development activities of low-income developing countries.

Furthermore, during the thirty-second annual meeting of the Board of Governors of the Islamic Development Bank, held on 29 and 30 May 2007 in Dakar, the Iranian delegation made a pledge of $100 million dollars to the recently established Poverty Alleviation Fund for developing countries.

The meeting was adjourned at 1.10 p.m.